

№ 8 OCT.-NOV.

Lovelorn

STIRRING STORIES of REAL ROMANCE

10¢

In
this issue...

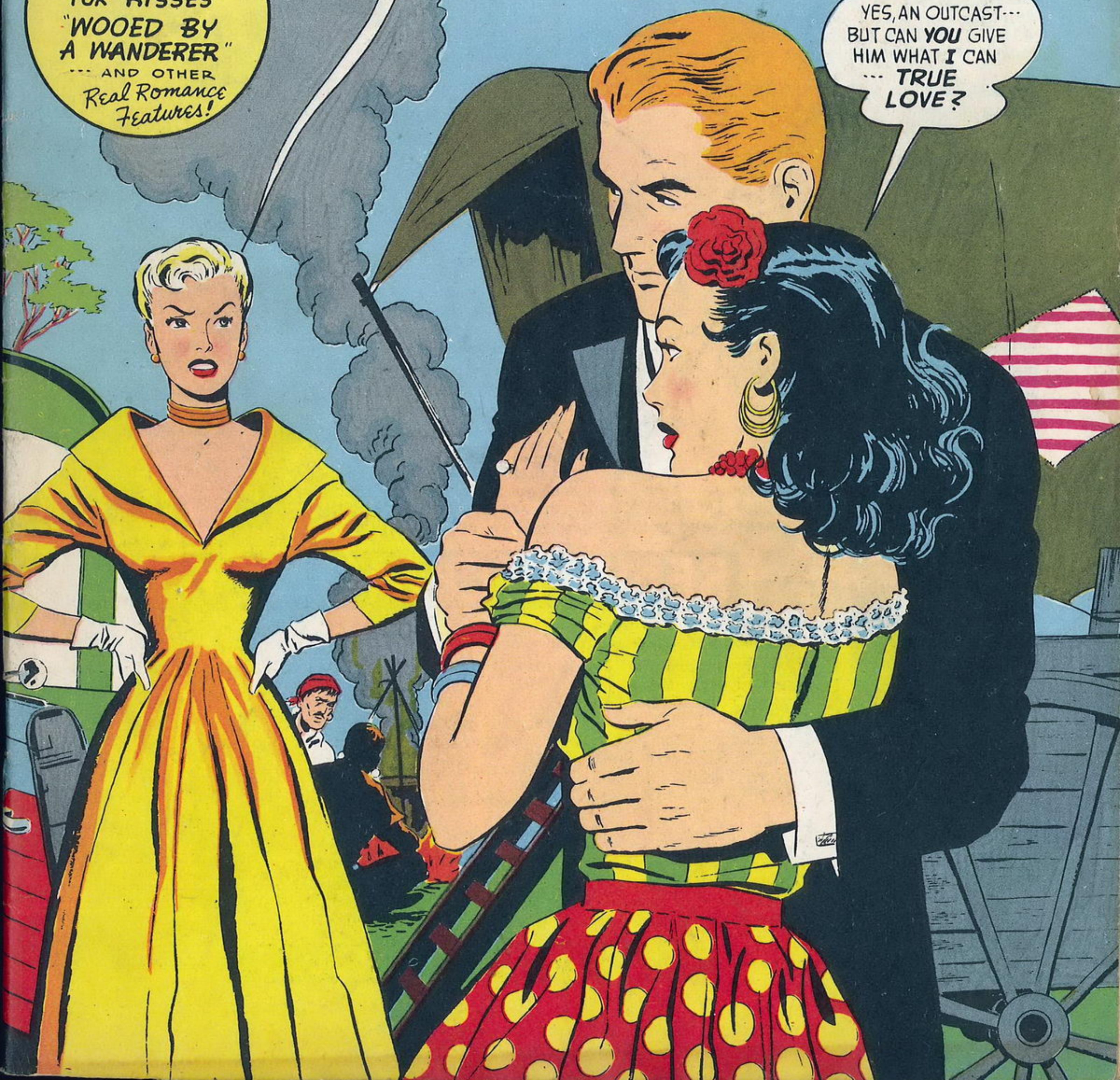
"CLASSROOMS AREN'T
FOR KISSES"

"WOODED BY
A WANDERER"

... AND OTHER
Real Romance
Features!

THIS IS MADNESS, HOWARD
---YOU'RE **MY MAN!** YOU CAN'T
DESERT **OUR** WAY OF LIFE FOR
THIS---THIS **GYPSY OUT-
CAST!**

YES, AN OUTCAST---
BUT CAN **YOU** GIVE
HIM WHAT **I** CAN
--- **TRUE
LOVE?**





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HAVE A SLIMMER YOUTHFUL FEMININE APPEARANCE INSTANTLY! **REDUCE**

Don't look old before your time. Do as thousands of others do, wear a comfortable new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT! The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, with the amazing new adjustable front panel, controls your figure the way you want it, with added support where you need it most. Simply adjust the laces and PRESTO your mid section is reshaped and your back braced and you look and feel younger!



**Your Appearance!
Look and Feel Like
Sixteen Again!**

No other girdle or supporter belt has more hold-in power! The Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt is the newest, most comfortable girdle I ever had.

More Up-Lift and Hold-in Power!

The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT takes weight off tired feet and gives you a more alluring, more daringly feminine, curvaceous figure the instant you put it on. It gives you lovely curves just in the right places, with no unwanted bulges in the wrong ones. It whittles your waistline to nothingness, no matter what shape you may now have. It's easily adjusted — always comfortable!

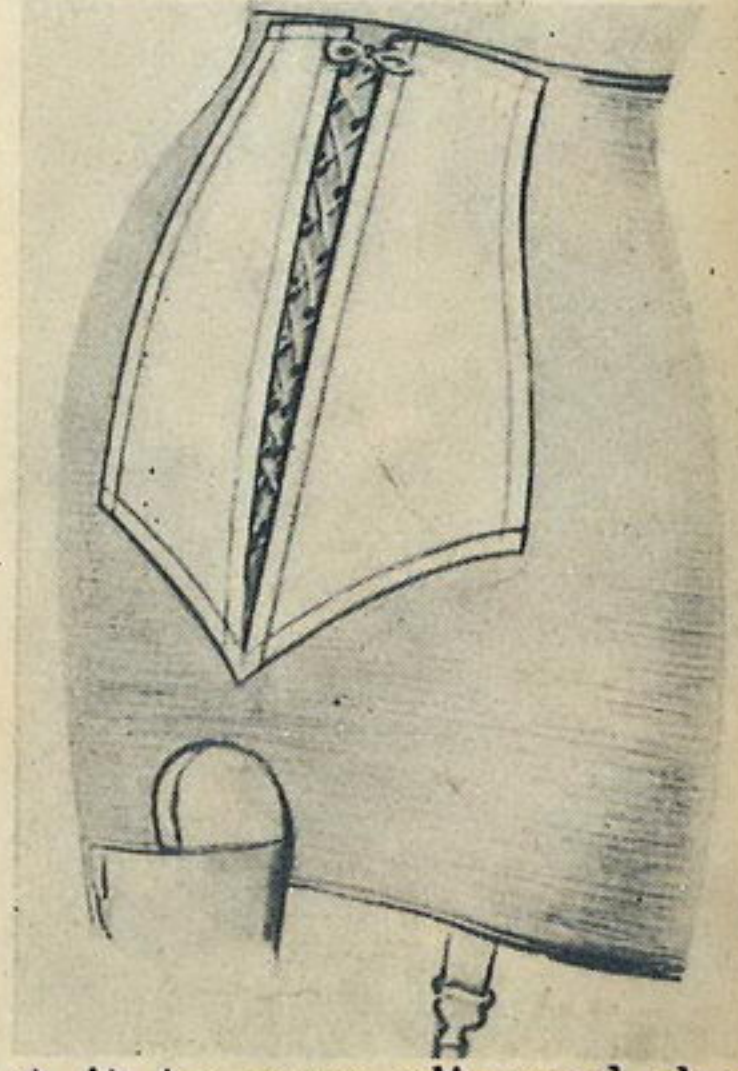
Test the ADJUST-O-BELT Up-Lift Principle with Your Own Hands!

Clasp your hands over your abdomen, press upwards and in gently but firmly. You feel better don't you! That's just what the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT does for you, only the ADJUST-O-BELT does it better. Mail Coupon and test it at home for 10 days FREE at our expense!

Appear Slimmer, and Feel Better!

The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT lifts and flattens unsightly bulges, comfortably, quickly, firmly. It readjusts easily to changes in your figure, yet no laces touch your body. It gives instant slenderizing figure control. It fashionably shapes your figure to its slimmest lines. Like magic the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT obeys your every wish. Pounds and inches seem to disappear instantly from waist, hips and thighs. You can adjust it to your slimmed down figure as your figure changes. It gives the same fit and comfort you get from a made to order costing 2 or 3 times the price. It washes like a dream.

Style: Panty and regular. Colors: Nude and white. It's made of the finest stretch material used in any girdle, with a pure satin front panel and made by the most skilled craftsmen. It's light in weight, but powerfully strong. It won't roll up, bulge or curl at the top. It gives extra-double support where you need it most. No other girdle at any price can give you better support, can make you look better, feel better or appear slimmer. Sizes 24 to 44 waist. Only **\$3.98**



You will look like and feel like this beautiful model in your new and improved Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE WITH A 10-DAY FREE TRIAL

If the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT isn't better than any supporter you ever had, if you don't feel more comfortable, if you don't look and feel younger, if your shape isn't 100% IMPROVED, if you are not delighted with it, return it and your money will be refunded in full.

FREE: New amazing NYLON laces will be sent free with your order. Try them instead of your regular laces. You may keep them FREE even if you return the girdle.

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ADJUST-O-BELT CO., Dept. 349
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Rush your new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT for \$3.98 in size and style check.

☐ Regular. ☐ Panty.
☐ C.O.D. I will pay postage, plus handling.
☐ I enclose \$3.98. You pay postage, plus handling.
CHECK SIZE: ☐ Sm. (25-26). ☐ Med. (27-28).
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☐ XXXL (38-40). ☐ XXXXL (42-44).

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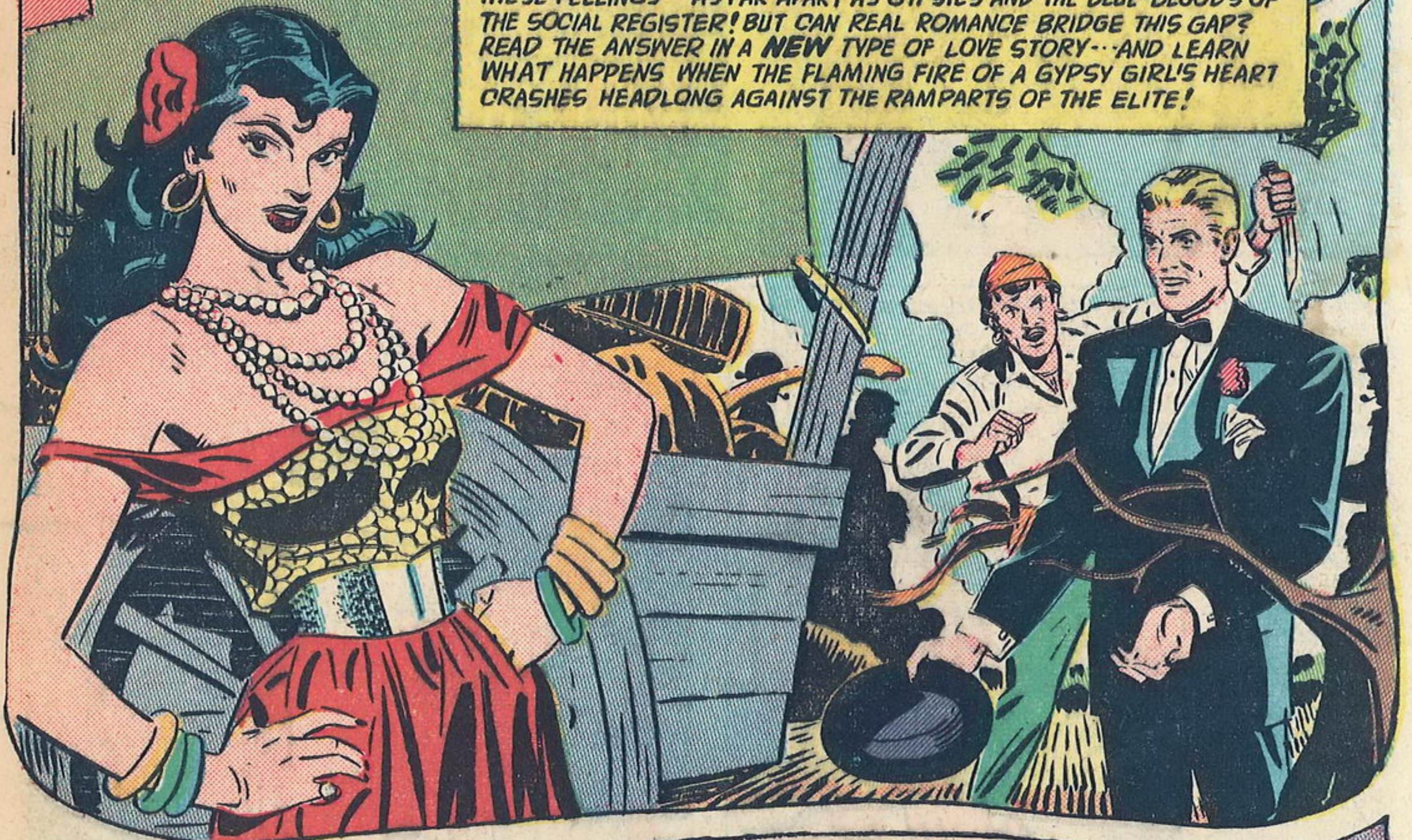
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I understand if not delighted with the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, I can return it in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

SENT ON APPROVAL!

My Little GYPSY SWEETHEART

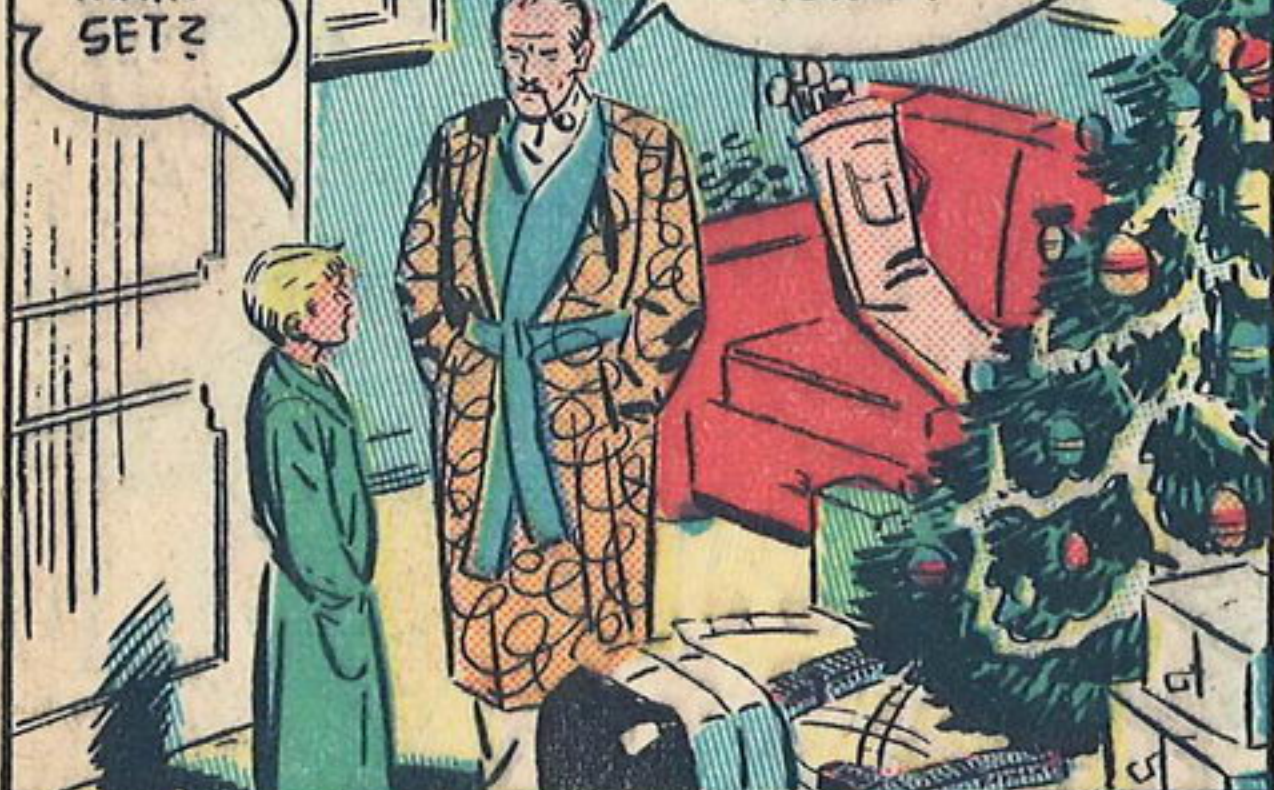
LOVE CAN BE A STRANGE, WILD AND VAGRANT EMOTION FOR SOME... FOR OTHERS, IT IS BUT A QUIET AND REFINED PURSUIT! POLES APART, THESE FEELINGS... AS FAR APART AS GYPSIES AND THE BLUE-BLOODS OF THE SOCIAL REGISTER! BUT CAN REAL ROMANCE BRIDGE THIS GAP? READ THE ANSWER IN A NEW TYPE OF LOVE STORY... AND LEARN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE FLAMING FIRE OF A GYPSY GIRL'S HEART CRASHES HEADLONG AGAINST THE RAMPARTS OF THE ELITE!



THIS IS A TALE OF TWO DIVERSE DESTINIES, READER... OF TWO LIVES THAT WERE FATED TO CROSS! YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE, BUT LET'S TRACE FATE'S TORTUOUS COURSE FROM ITS VERY BEGINNING! WE'LL LOOK IN ON THE **FIRST** OF THOSE LIVES... THAT OF **HOWARD THURSTON**!

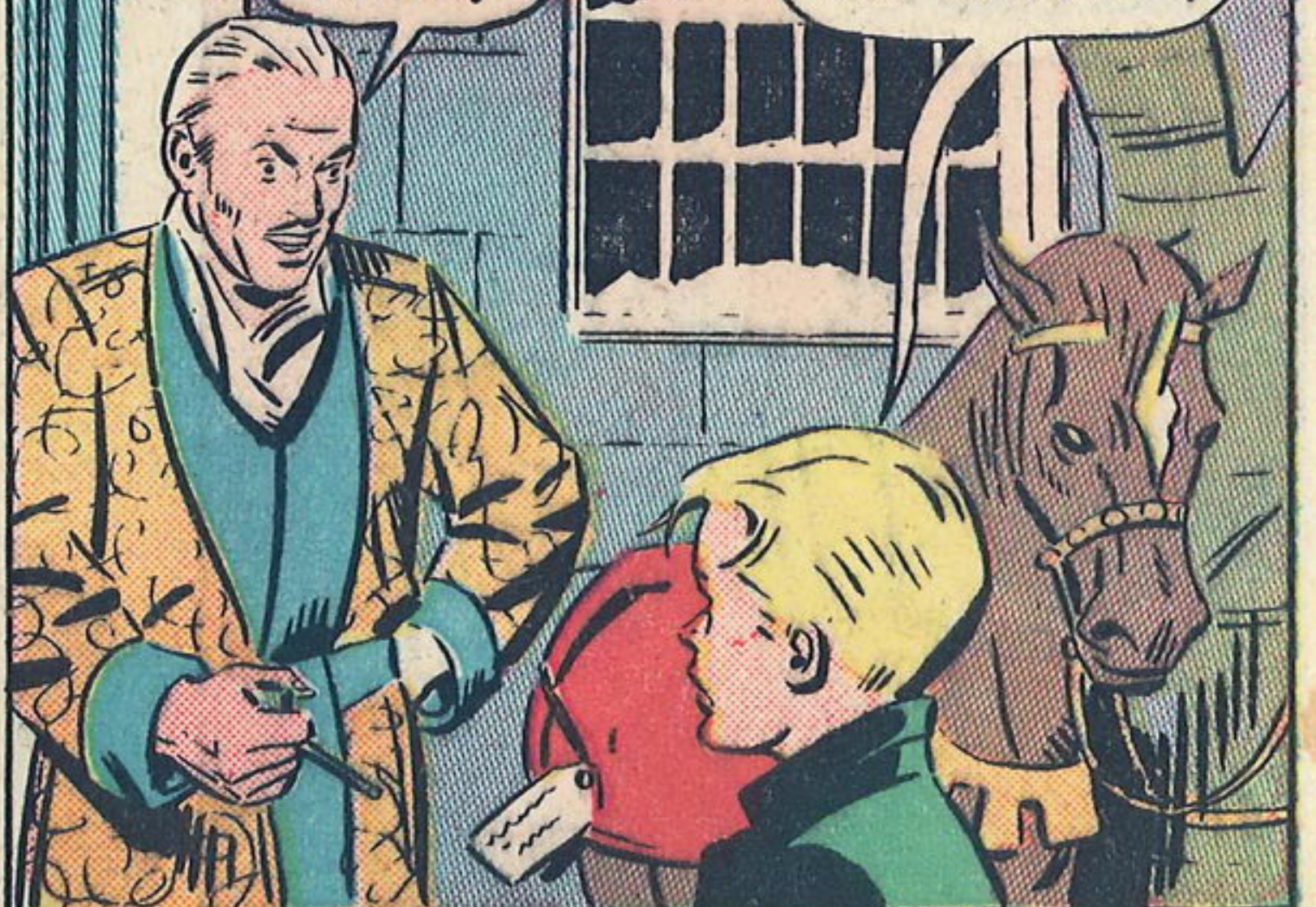
GOSH, IS THIS ALL I GOT FOR CHRISTMAS... JUST A MESS OF **SMALL** PRESENTS AND **ANOTHER** ELECTRIC TRAIN SET?

HOWARD, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'RE **SPOILED**! I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I OUGHT TO GIVE YOU YOUR **REAL** PRESENT... THAT'S WAITING OUTSIDE!

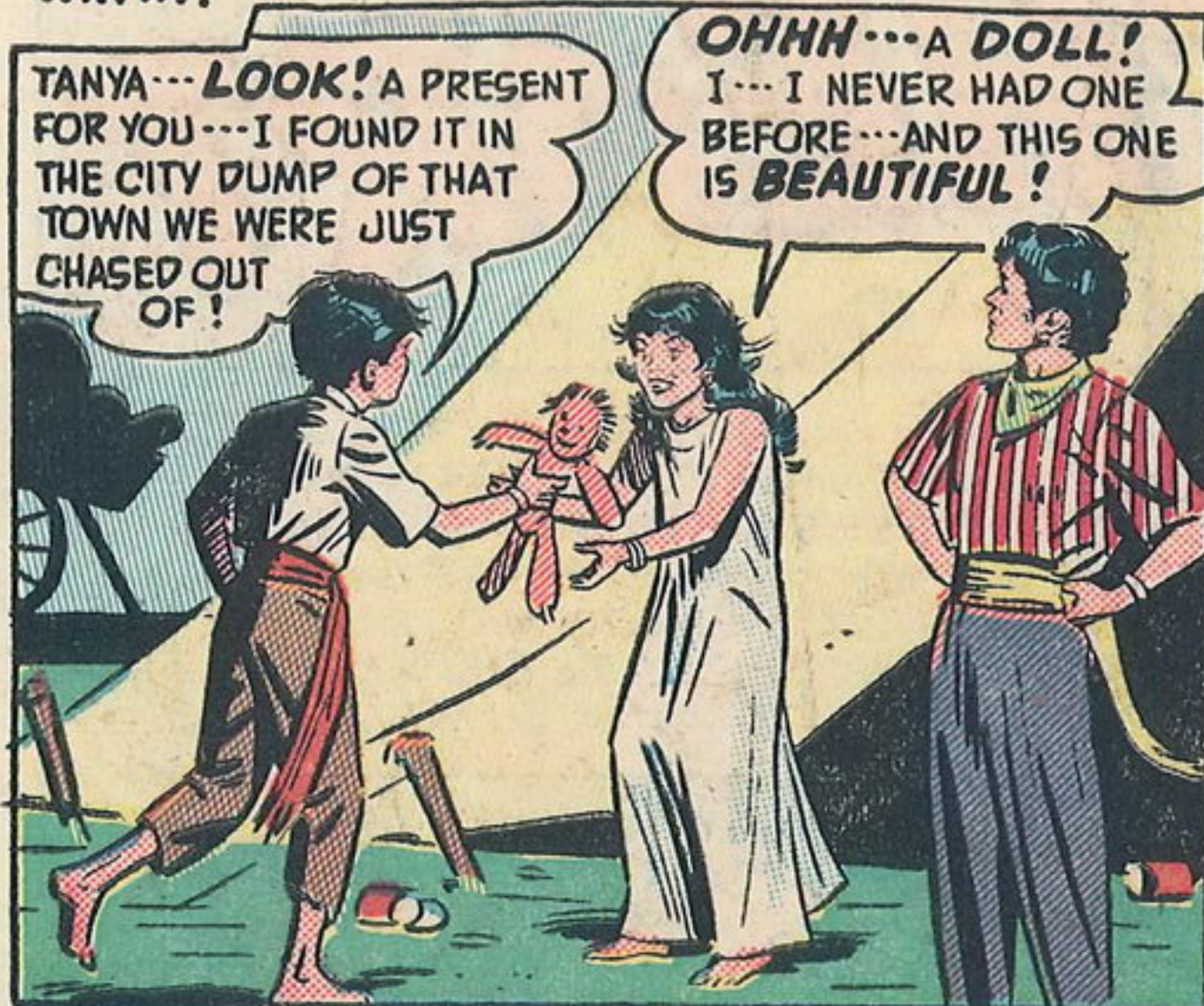


WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH YOU... HOW CAN YOU LOOK SO DISAPPOINTED AND UNHAPPY AT GETTING A **PONY**? YOU OUGHT TO THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS WE'RE WEALTHY ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU SUCH WONDERFUL PRESENTS, WHEN **OTHER** CHILDREN ARE TOO POOR TO GET **ANY-THING**!

BUT DAD, I WANTED A MOTORCYC... **HUH?** YOU MEAN SOME CHILDREN ARE **POOR**... NOBODY BUYS THEM **ANYTHING**?



YES, HOWARD, THERE ARE SUCH CHILDREN...AND A FEW HUNDRED MILES AWAY, IN A SQUALID GYPSY CAMP, THERE'S ONE WHOM YOU ARE DESTINED TO KNOW QUITE WELL... TANYA!



BAH...THAT'S TRASH! WHEN I'M KING OF THE GYPSIES, I'LL GET YOU PRESENTS THAT'LL DAZZLE YOU! THERE'LL BE DIAMONDS LIKE STARS...DOLLS OF PURE GOLD... CLOTHES OF SILK AND SILVER...LIKE ONLY RICH CHILDREN HAVE!

IVOR! YOU MEAN SOME CHILDREN ARE RICH... SOMEBODY STEALS ALL THOSE WONDERFUL THINGS FOR THEM?



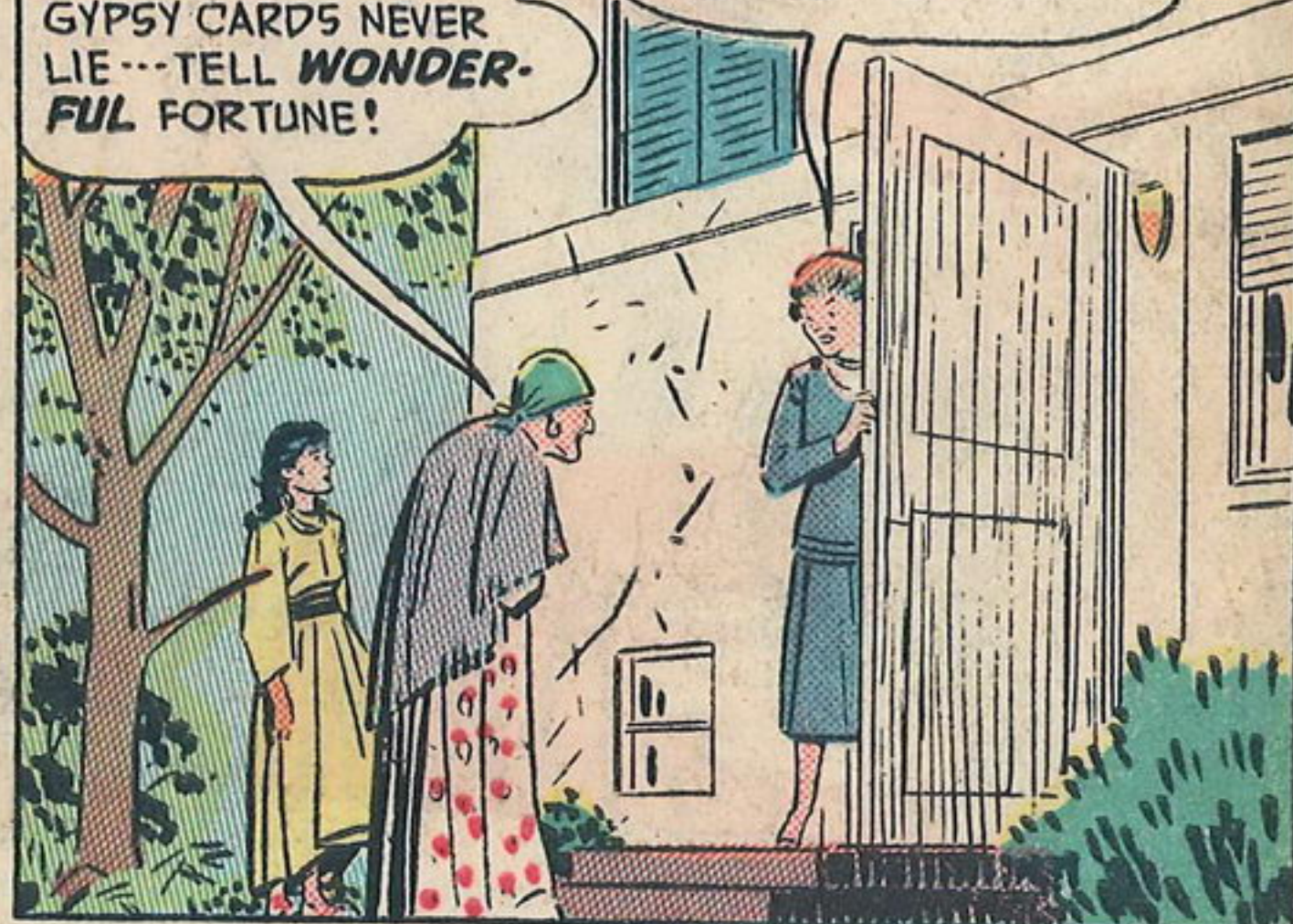
YES, TANYA AND HOWARD ARE SEPARATED BY MORE THAN MERE MILES... THEY'RE WORLDS APART! SURELY THE FATES MUST BE WRONG, SURELY TWO SUCH FANTASTICALLY DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS WILL NEVER MEET...AND NEVER, NEVER FALL IN LOVE! BUT LET'S UNRAVEL THE TWISTED STRANDS OF DESTINY STILL FURTHER... AND SEE!



AND MEANWHILE, HOW HAS TANYA'S EDUCATION BEEN GETTING ALONG THESE LAST FEW YEARS...?

AH, GOOD MORNING, MADAME! HAVE YOUR FORTUNE TOLD? OLD GYPSY CARDS NEVER LIE...TELL WONDERFUL FORTUNE!

OH, A GYPSY FORTUNE TELLER...HOW EXCITING! COME RIGHT IN...



AH, JACK OF DIAMONDS...THAT MEANS MAN YOU LOVE WILL SOON COME INTO GREAT FORTUNE...WILL SHOWER YOU WITH MUCH MONEY, MUCH DIAMONDS...AND MUCH LOVE!

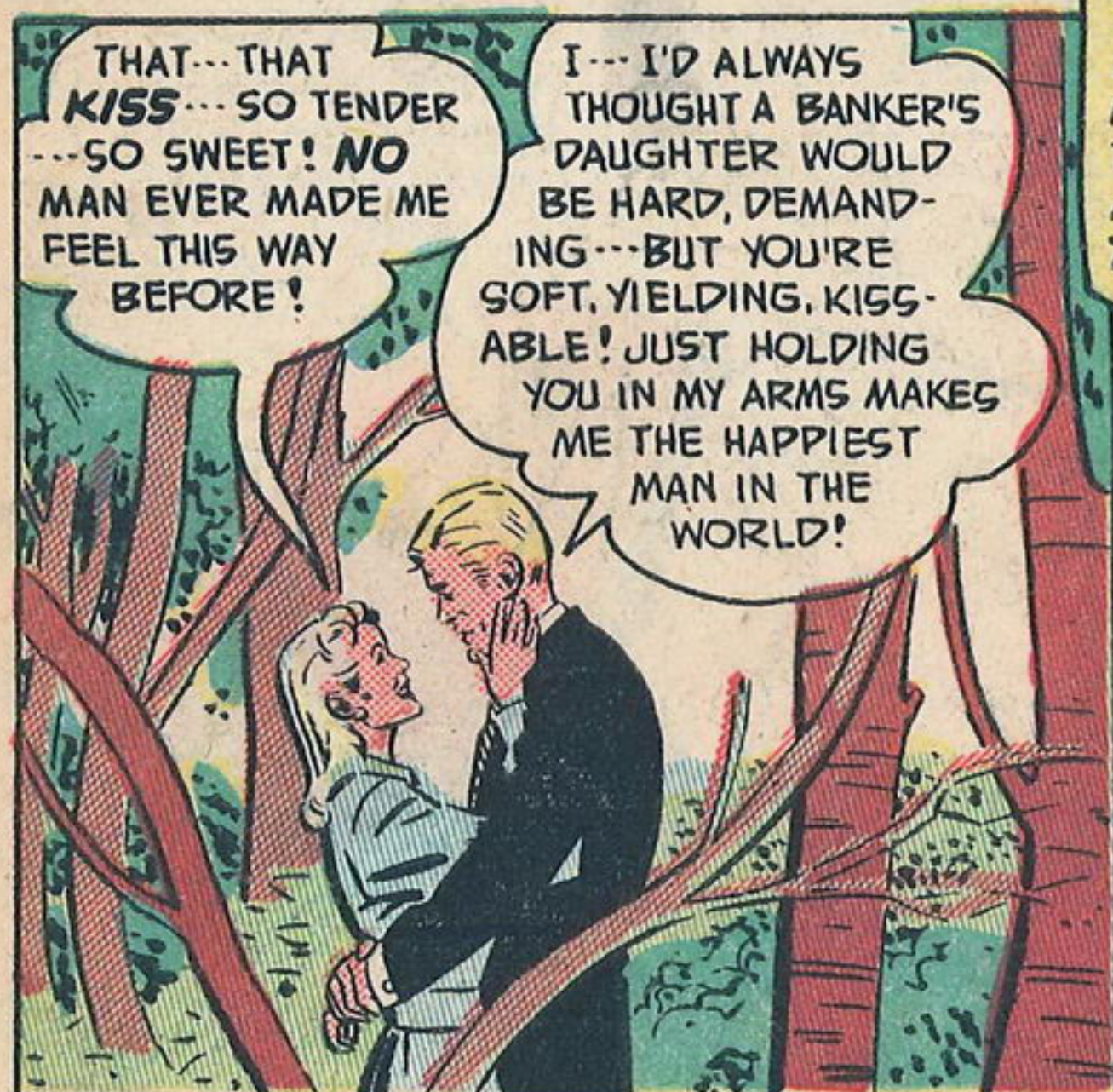
HOW THRILLING! TELL ME MORE!



WONDERFUL, TANYA! YOU ARE THE BEST PUPIL I EVER HAD...YOU HAVE LEARNED HOW TO STEAL SILVERWARE NOISELESSLY AS EASILY AS YOU LEARNED HOW TO PICK POCKETS! I FORE-SEE A GREAT FUTURE FOR YOU!



THE YEARS PASS... AND THE FATES CHORTLE WITH GLEE AT THEIR EVER-TIGHTENING WEB OF DESTINY...



CAN YOU BLAME THE FATES FOR CHUCKLING UP THEIR SLEEVES, READER... WHEN AT THIS MOMENT, ONLY A FEW MILES AWAY, THIS IS HAPPENING?

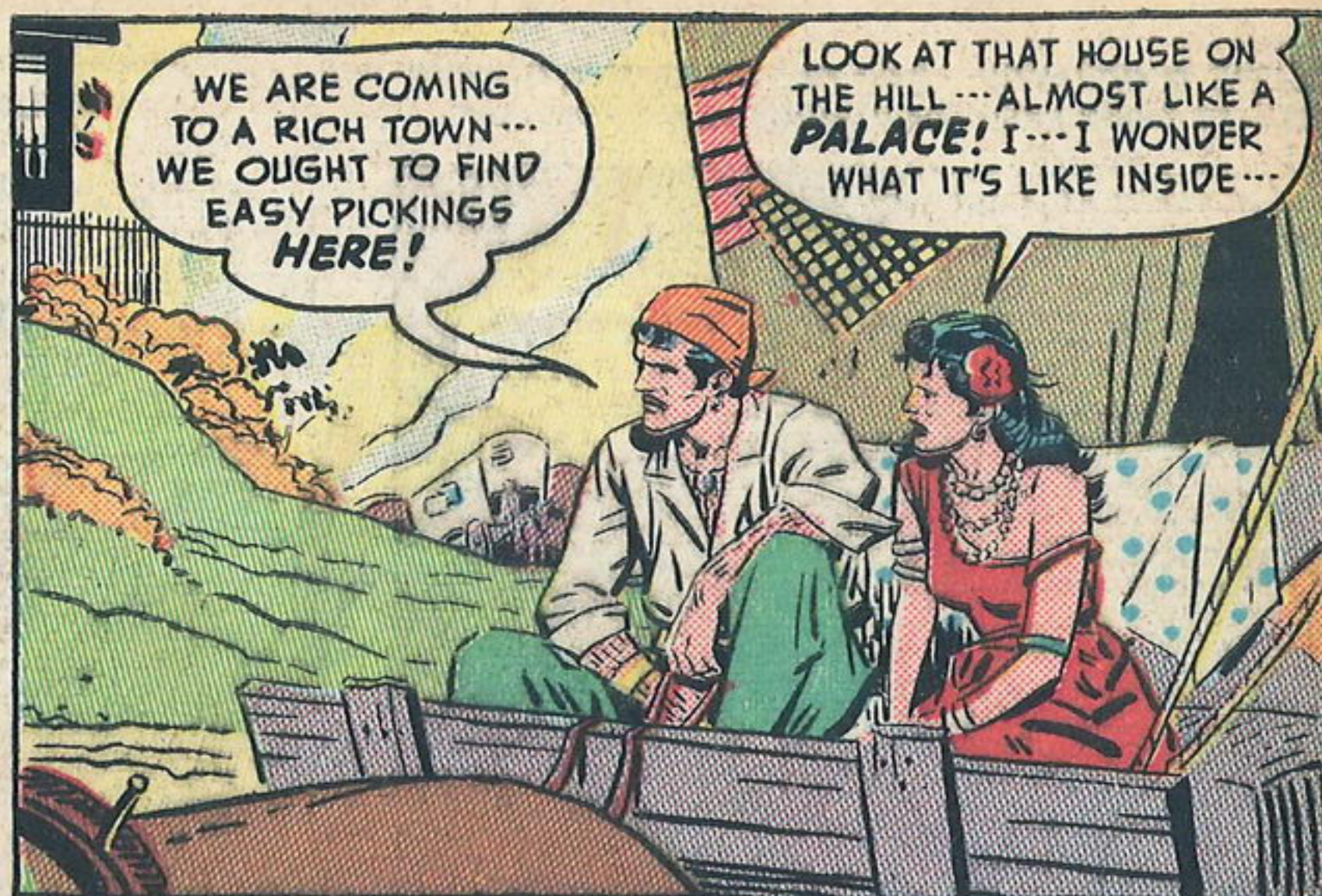
JUST LOOK AT THE SPARKS AND SHADOWS PLAYING ABOVE THE CAMPFIRE. IVOR... ISN'T IT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHT YOU'VE EVER SEEN?

NO, IT ISN'T, TANYA... YOU ARE... YOU WHO WILL BE MINE WHEN I AM KING OF THE GYPSIES!



YES, A BOY FROM THE TOP RANKS OF THE WEALTHY, THE SOCIALLY ELITE... AND AN OUTCAST GIRL FROM THE DREGS OF SOCIETY! EACH SO DIFFERENT, AND YET EACH SO ALIKE IN THINKING THEY ARE SITTING ON TOP OF A WORLD OF HAPPINESS, WITH THEIR LIVES, LOVES AND FUTURES SO CERTAIN AND OBVIOUS! BUT BOTH ARE DUE FOR THE SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES... AS YOU'LL SEE FROM READING THE GYPSY GIRL'S TALE! WE'LL LET HER TELL IT.

"MY HEART WAS FILLED WITH WILD DELIGHT THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE CARAVAN DROVE OFF... FOR IVOR PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED OUR BETROTHAL BY ASKING ME TO RIDE BESIDE HIM AS HIS FUTURE BRIDE! THEN, TOWARDS EVENING "



WE ARE COMING TO A RICH TOWN... WE OUGHT TO FIND EASY PICKINGS HERE!

LOOK AT THAT HOUSE ON THE HILL... ALMOST LIKE A PALACE! I... I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE INSIDE...

OH, LOOK, DARLING... A GYPSY CARAVAN GOING UP THE ROAD! I'VE OFTEN WONDERED WHAT IT'S LIKE INSIDE THOSE WAGONS AND CAMPS!

THEY MUST BE HEADING FOR THE FAIR GROUNDS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN!... SAY... I'VE GOT AN IDEA! A COUPLE OF GYPSY ENTERTAINERS ARE JUST WHAT WE NEED TO LIVEN UP OUR PARTY!

"SOON AFTER WE PITCHED CAMP AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN, THE KING SUMMONED IVOR AND ME TO HIS WAGON..."

IVOR... TANYA... I HAVE CHOSEN YOU BOTH FOR AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT! WE HAVE HAD A CALL FOR TWO ENTERTAINERS AT SOME RICH FOOL'S PARTY... AND SINCE YOU TWO ARE THE MOST LIGHT-FINGERED IN THE ENTIRE CAMP, YOU WILL BOTH TAKE TURNS ENTERTAINING... AND STEALING!

WE UNDERSTAND, FATHER... WE'LL LIFT THEIR SILVER AND JEWELRY RIGHT FROM UNDER THEIR SNOBBISH NOSES!



"MY HEART POUNDED WITH WONDER AS I STOOD ALMOST ANKLE DEEP IN RICH, SOFT RUGS, BENEATH A CEILING THAT SEEMED AS HIGH AS THE DISTANT HEAVENS! NEVER BEFORE HAD I SEEN SUCH WEALTH, SUCH LUXURY... AND NEVER BEFORE HAD MY EARS BURNED AT SUCH INSULTS!"

"THE AWE AND WONDER PASSED, LEAVING ONLY AN ALL-CONSUMING HATRED AT THESE RICH FOOLS AND THEIR VICIOUS WORDS! AND AS I DANCED, I BEGAN MARKING OUT THOSE I WANTED TO TAKE REVENGE ON!"

OH, HOWARD, YOU WONDERFUL HOST GYPSY BEGGARS TO ENTERTAIN US!

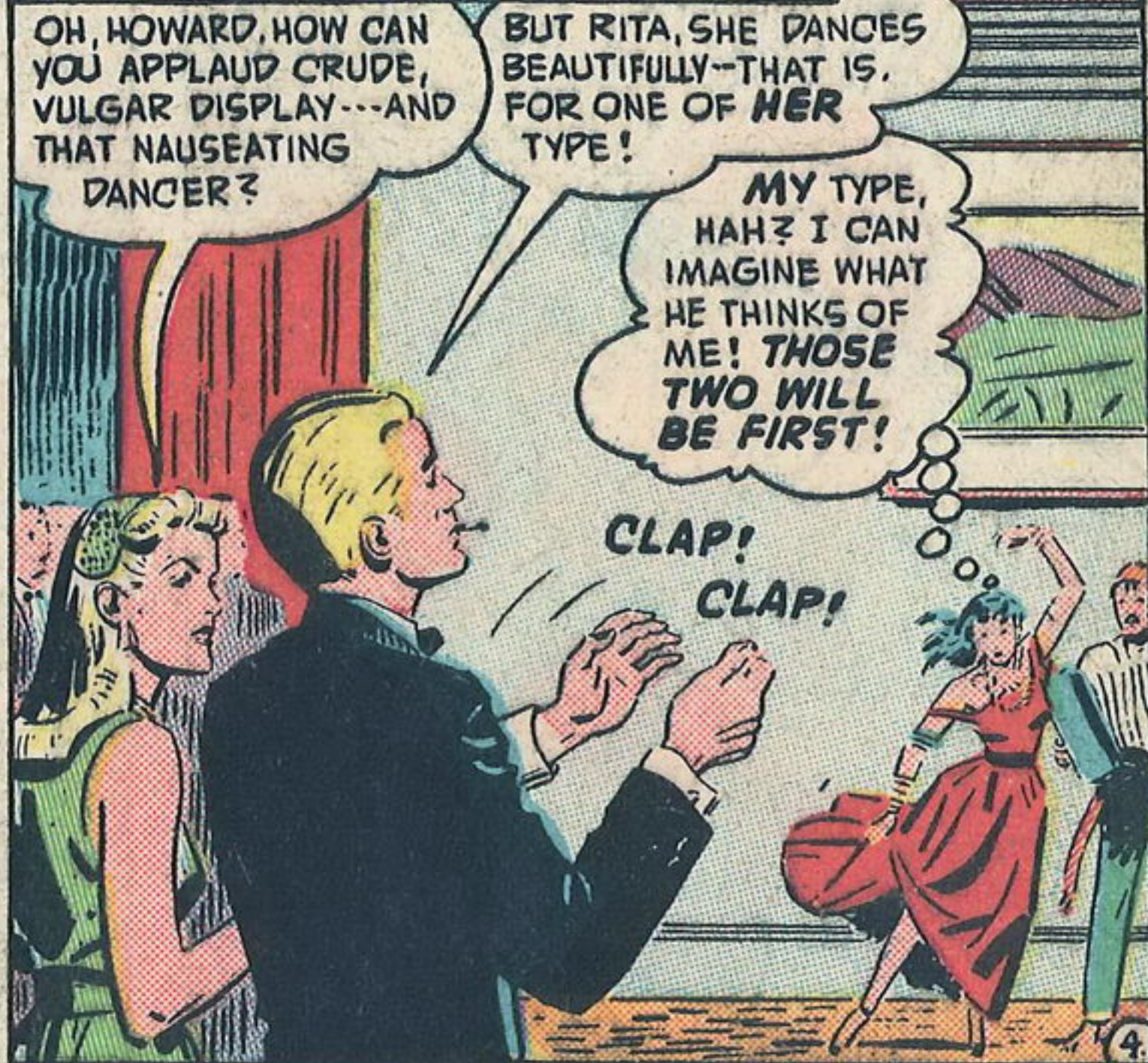
WE MAY ENJOY THEM... IF WE CAN FORGET THEIR RAGS AND DIRT!

OH, HOWARD, HOW CAN YOU APPLAUD CRUDE, VULGAR DISPLAY... AND THAT NAUSEATING DANCER?

BUT RITA, SHE DANCES BEAUTIFULLY--THAT IS, FOR ONE OF HER TYPE!

MY TYPE, HAH? I CAN IMAGINE WHAT HE THINKS OF ME! THOSE TWO WILL BE FIRST!

CLAP! CLAP!



"I BROUGHT MY DANCE TO A SWIFT CLOSE, HUNGRY FOR VENGEANCE!"

TELL MADAME'S FORTUNE? GYPSY PALM-READING NEVER LIES...

UGH! I WOULDN'T HAVE YOU TOUCH MY PALM FOR ALL...

OH, GO AHEAD, RITA... IT'LL BE FUN! YOU CAN ASK HER ALL ABOUT YOUR FUTURE IN LOVE... AND YOU CAN EVEN GO INTO THE NEXT ROOM WHERE NO ONE'LL HEAR THE ANSWERS BUT YOU!



"HIGHLY SKILLED IN ALL THE TRICKS OF OBSERVATION, AIDED BY MY SWIFT GYPSY INTUITION, I BEGAN MAKING MENTAL DEDUCTIONS ABOUT THE GIRL I LOATHED..."

HMM, NO ENGAGEMENT RING, AND YET SHE ALMOST BLURTED OUT THAT SHE AND THAT HOWARD ARE IN LOVE... AH, I THINK I CAN GUESS HOW SHE FEELS...

THIS LINE SHOWS YOU ARE DEEPLY TROUBLED ABOUT... OH... THE LINE CROSSES THE LOVE AXIS! YOU ARE WORRIED BECAUSE A MAN HAS SAID HE LOVES YOU, HAS KISSED YOU... BUT HAS NOT ASKED YOU TO MARRY HIM!

HOW... HOW DID YOU KNOW?



HOWARD! THROW THAT GYPSY WENCH OUT OF THIS HOUSE! SHE... SHE INSULTED ME!

WHAT... THE NERVE OF HER! LET ME IN THERE... I'LL SOON PUT HER IN HER PLACE... OUT IN THE GUTTER!



PERHAPS MADAME **HERSELF** DOES NOT WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HER FUTURE... PERHAPS SHE IS **AFRAID** SHE WILL BE **UN-HAPPY** IN LOVE AND MARRIAGE, EH? YES, IT IS A SURE SIGN THAT SHE FEARS THE MAN SHE LOVES WILL **NEVER** BE **HERS**!

WHAT **NONSENSE**! HOWARD... I MEAN, THE MAN I LOVE **IS** MINE, AND WE **COULDN'T** BE UNHAPPY TOGETHER! AND JUST TO SHOW YOU THAT I'M **NOT** AFRAID OF THE FUTURE, I **WILL** HAVE MY FORTUNE TOLD... EVEN THOUGH I THINK IT'S ALL **STUPID**!



I KNOW **MANY** THINGS... AND I ALSO KNOW THAT HOWARD WILL **NEVER** BE YOURS! HE WILL FIND OUT THAT YOUR HEART IS AS SHALLOW AS IT IS GREEDY... THAT YOU WANT HIM ONLY FOR HIS MONEY... THAT HE COULD **NEVER** LOVE A STUPID, SCHEMING, HEARTLESS WITCH LIKE **YOU**!

HOW **DARE** YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT TO ME, YOU... YOU CON-TEMPTIBLE, LOATH-SOME...!



NOW LISTEN HERE, YOU LITTLE...

NO, **YOU** LISTEN TO **ME**... **HOWARD**! I LEARNED MUCH FROM THAT GIRL'S PALM... MUCH THAT IS VITAL TO YOUR HAPPINESS! SHE COULD NOT BEAR THE TRUTH, BUT **YOU**... WHO ARE SO HAND-SOME, SO STRONG, SO INTELLIGENT... YOU **DESERVE** TO KNOW THE WONDERFUL FUTURE AHEAD OF **YOU**! SIT DOWN... **GIVE ME YOUR PALM**!



"MY HAND TOUCHED HIS... AND A STRANGE, TINGLING CURRENT SEEMED TO PASS BETWEEN US! WONDERINGLY, HE SAT DOWN... AND WITH EVEN GREATER WONDER AT MYSELF, I FORCED MY THOUGHTS TOWARDS THE VENGEANCE I SOUGHT!"



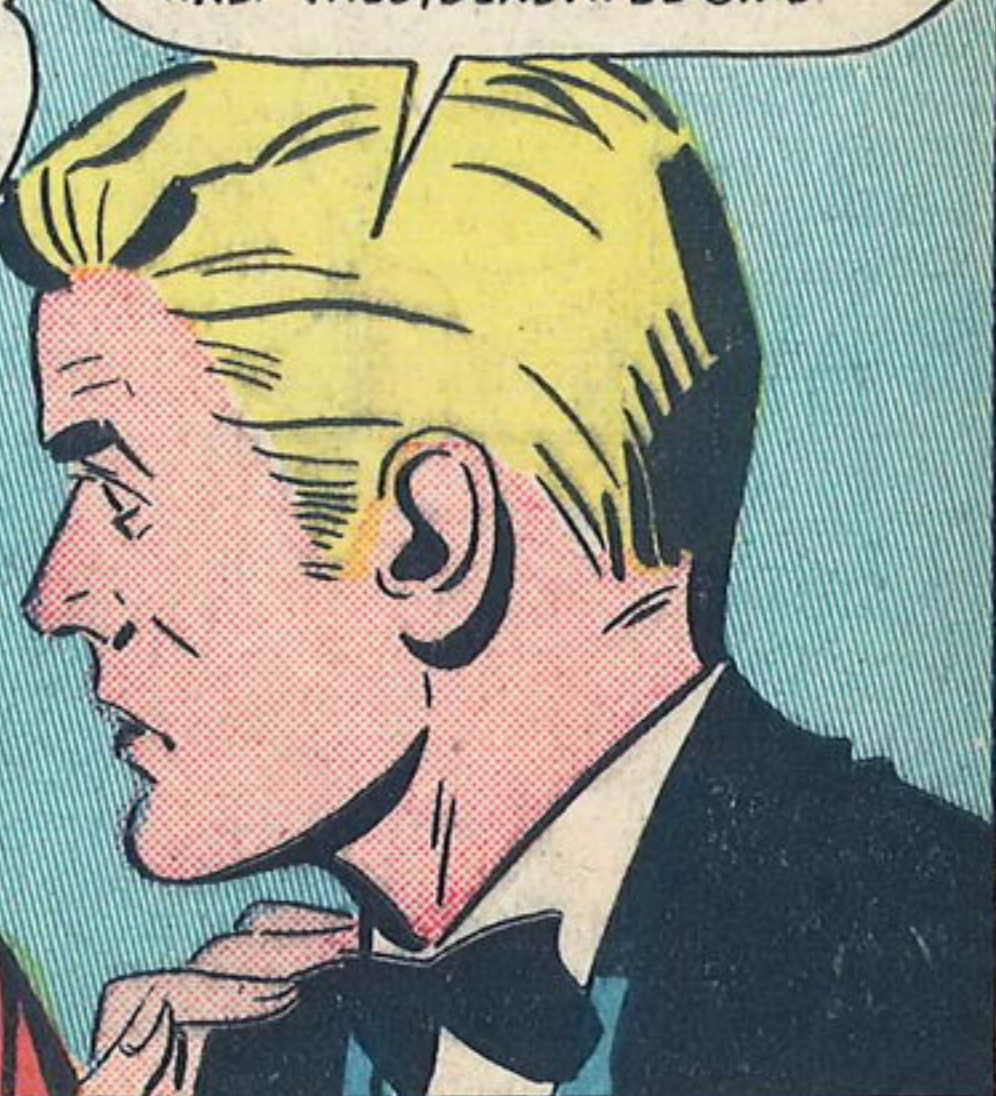
AH, YOUR LOVE AXIS IS WINDING AND COMPLICATED... YOUR HEART IS **CONFUSED!** I SEE A GIRL... BEAUTIFUL... YOU THINK YOU LOVE HER, YOU THINK MAYBE YOU'LL MARRY HER! BUT YOU'RE NOT SURE, BECAUSE SHE'S REALLY NOT YOUR ROMANTIC IDEAL... **OH!!**

WHAT IS IT... WHAT DO YOU SEE? YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY GOOD SO FAR... **WHAT ELSE DO YOU SEE?**

I... I'M AFRAID TO SAY IT... AFRAID YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME! YOU **WON'T** MARRY THAT GIRL! I SAW **ANOTHER** GIRL IN YOUR PALM... A GIRL WHO IS THE IDEAL OF ALL YOUR ROMANTIC DREAMS! **A GYPSY GIRL... LIKE ME!**



THAT'S **CRAZY!** HOW COULD I... BUT **WAIT!** I HAVE HAD DAY-DREAMS OF A STRANGELY EXOTIC, HALF-WILD, BEAUTIFUL GIRL...



"DESPERATELY, I FORCED BACK THE RISING LAUGHTER AT THIS FOOL WHO DID NOT KNOW THAT **ALL BOYS** HAD DREAMS LIKE THAT... AND THAT HE WAS FALLING RIGHT INTO MY TRAP!"



MAYBE SHE WAS... A GIRL LIKE **YOU!** I'VE SEEN A FACE LIKE YOURS IN MY VISIONS... GAZED DEEPLY INTO JUST SUCH EYES... KISSED RED LIPS LIKE...

PLEASE, I... I MUST GO NOW.

"**B**REAKING FROM HIS PLEADING GRASP, I GAVE IVOR THE SIGN AND WE FLED FROM THE HOUSE, CHOKING WITH LAUGHTER AT THE SCENE WE KNEW WOULD SOON OCCUR BEHIND US!"

HOWARD... MY DIAMOND BRACELET... IT'S GONE! THAT GYPSY GIRL MUST HAVE STOLEN IT!



NONSENSE, RITA! SHE COULDN'T HAVE... SHE WAS TOO WONDERFUL, TOO BEAUTIFUL...



HMM, BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL... IT SOUNDS AS IF SHE ROPED **YOU** IN TOO! BETTER SEE IF ANYTHING'S MISSING OF **YOURS!**

RIDICULOUS! SHE... **MY WALLET'S GONE!**



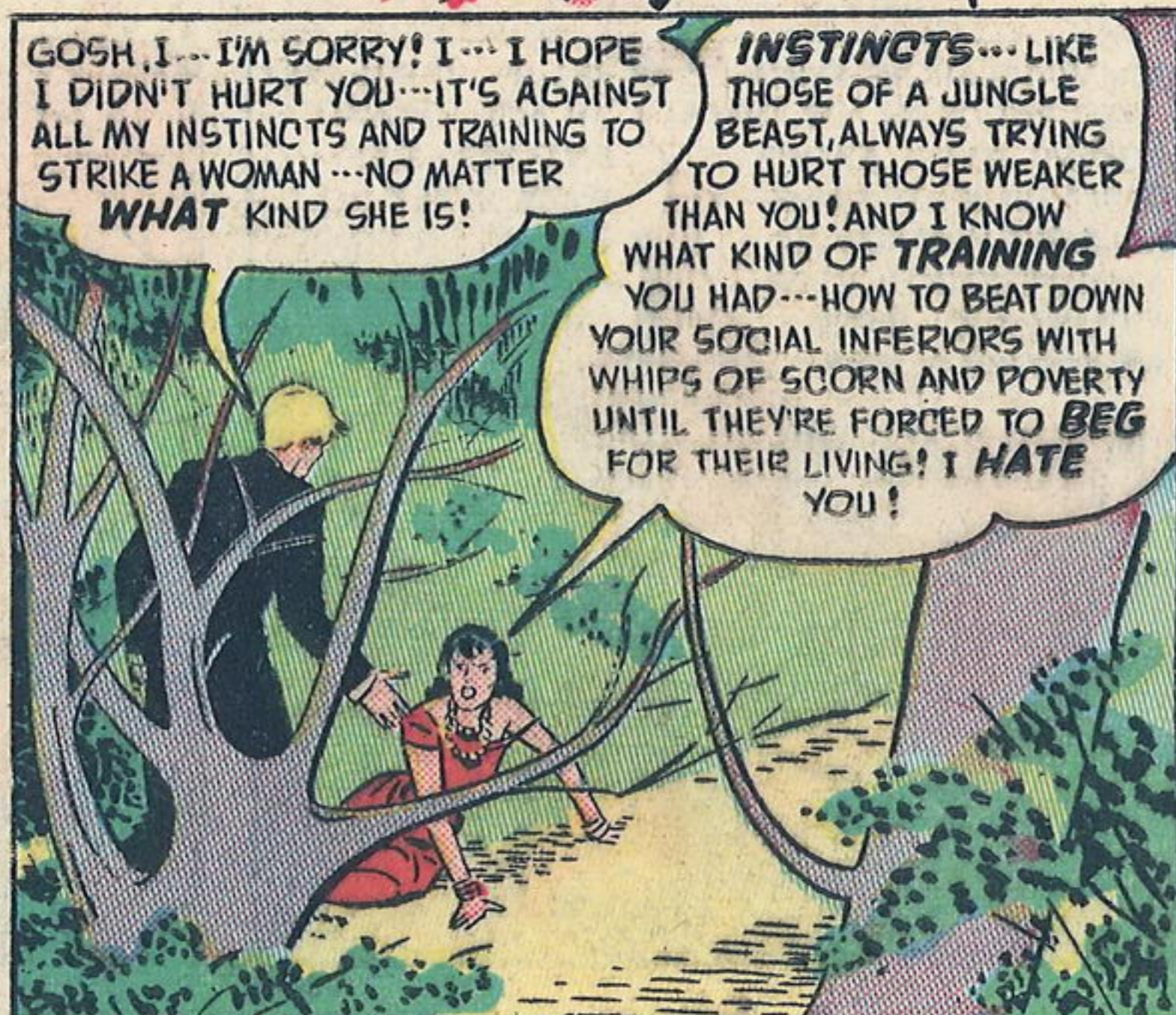
THE SCHEMING **THIEF...** PLAYING UP TO ME JUST SO SHE COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO PICK MY POCKET! I'LL FIX HER... I'LL GO DOWN TO THAT GYPSY CAMP... **AND WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON HER...**



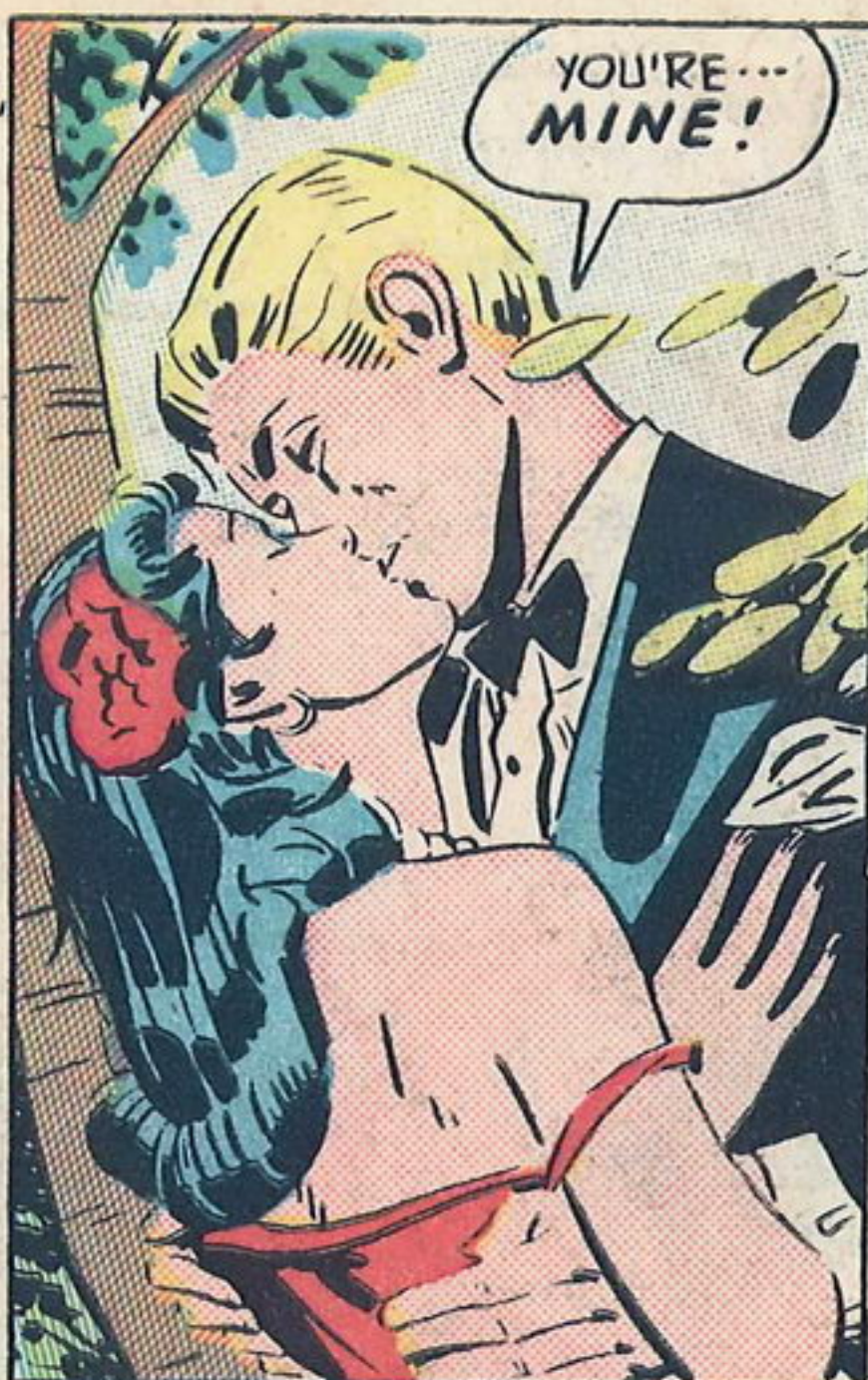
"AN HOUR LATER, AS I WAS FETCHING WATER FOR THE CAMP..."



"I DIDN'T... FOR HE OVERTOOK ME IN A FEW SHORT STRIDES! I FELT HIS HAND CATCH MY WRIST IN A VISE-LIKE GRIP ---AND SUDDENLY HE SEEMED TO PERSONIFY ALL THE FORCES OF WEALTH AND SOCIAL PRIVILEGE THAT HAD OSTRACIZED ME, MADE ME AN OUTCAST, HOUNDED ME AND MY PEOPLE FROM TOWN TO TOWN UNTIL WE'D BEEN FORCED TO TURN TO ROBBERY!"



"**H**IS ARMS STOLE AROUND ME, DREW ME AGAINST HIM! OUR LIPS TOUCHED... AND INSTANTLY MY HEART EXPLODED IN A RADIANT BURST OF UNBELIEVABLE ECSTASY! I WAS SINKING DOWN, DOWN INTO A WHIRLPOOL OF STRANGE EMOTION! COULD THESE BE MY LIPS KISSING HIM BACK WITH A WILD, UNCONTROLLABLE HUNGER?"



"**I**T WAS THEN THAT I CAUGHT SIGHT OF IVOR'S FACE THROUGH THE TREES! **IVOR**...MY **TRUE LOVE**! INSTANTLY I KNEW THAT I HAD MERELY SUCCUMBED TO A FLEETING MOMENT'S MADNESS... A MADNESS THAT HAD TO STOP **NOW**!"



CONGRATULATIONS, TANYA... YOU PUT ON AN ACT THAT'S A CREDIT TO THE ENTIRE TRIBE! THE IDIOT THINKS YOU **LOVE** HIM! NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS KEEP FOOLING HIM... **UNTIL WE ROB HIM BLIND!**

YES, IT... IT WAS ONLY AN ACT... **WHAT DID YOU SAY... ROB HIM?** NO, I WON'T... I DON'T WANT TO EVEN **SEE** HIM AGAIN!

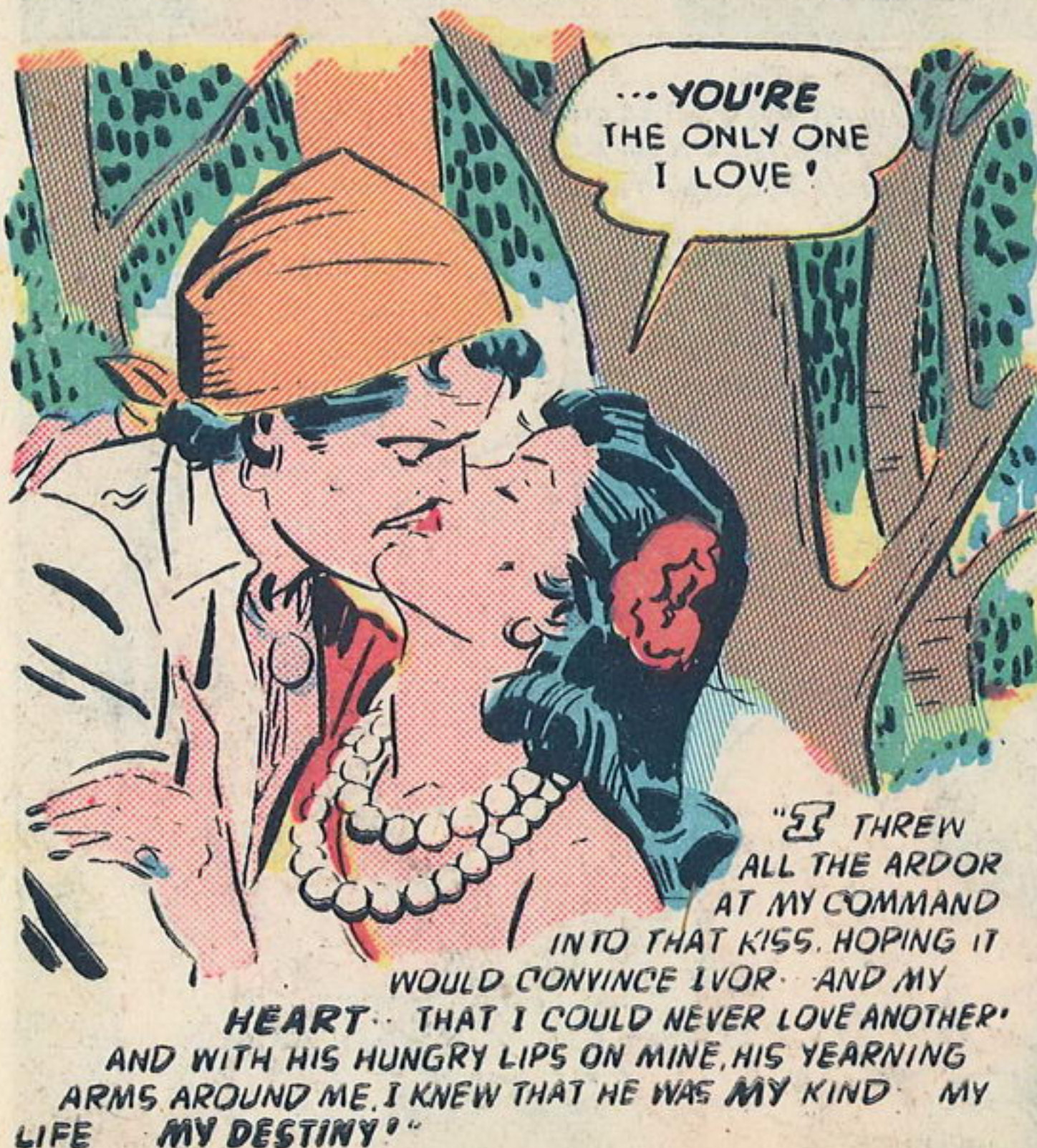


WHAT... YOU DON'T WANT TO ROB HIM? CAN IT BE YOU **DO** LOVE THE FOOL?

I... IN **LOVE** WITH HIM? YOU MUST BE MAD, IVOR... AND MAYBE **THIS** WILL RESTORE YOU TO YOUR SENSES AND SHOW YOU THAT...

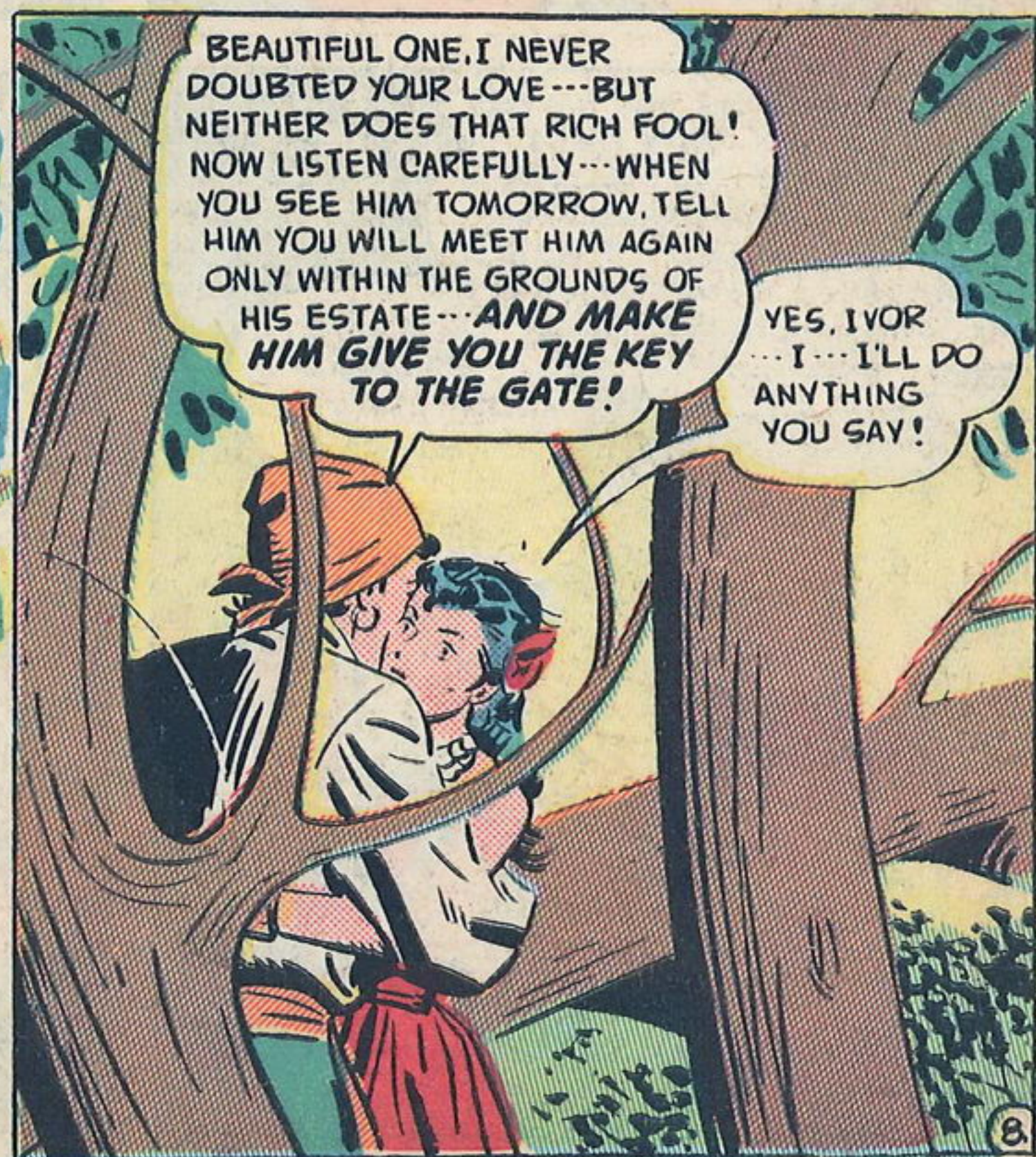


... **YOU'RE** THE ONLY ONE I LOVE!



BEAUTIFUL ONE, I NEVER DOUBTED YOUR LOVE... BUT NEITHER DOES THAT RICH FOOL! NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY... WHEN YOU SEE HIM TOMORROW, TELL HIM YOU WILL MEET HIM AGAIN ONLY WITHIN THE GROUNDS OF HIS ESTATE... **AND MAKE HIM GIVE YOU THE KEY TO THE GATE!**

YES, IVOR... I... I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!



"NEXT NIGHT..."

I...I HAVEN'T HAD A MOMENT'S PEACE SINCE LAST NIGHT... AFRAID THAT YOU WOULDN'T SHOW UP! YOU'VE **DONE** SOMETHING TO ME! I'D THOUGHT MY LIFE WAS ALL ARRANGED IN A SET PATTERN...AND THEN ONE KISS FROM YOU SHOWS ME THAT IT'S ALL NOTHING COMPARED TO THE KIND OF LOVE **YOU** CAN GIVE ME!



"HIS WORDS STIRRED ME, REAWAKENED MY HEART TO THE THRILL OF NEW LOVE... BUT **NO!** IT **COULDN'T** BE LOVE! I'D **PROVE** IT TO MYSELF...BY ACCEPTING HIS LOVE-MAKING AS I LAUGHED WITHIN MYSELF!"

AND...AND WHAT KIND OF LOVE CAN **YOU** GIVE **ME**... DEAREST?

SWEETHEART, I...



"I **KNEW** MY LIPS WOULD BE TOO TEMPTING FOR HIM... BUT I'D BARGAINED FOR A STRENGTH I DIDN'T POSSESS! FOR LOCKED IN HIS EMBRACE, MY STRONG RESOLUTION GAVE WAY BEFORE A HEART-THROBBING TIDE OF RAPTURE THAT DROVE IVOR FROM MY MIND... AND TOLD ME THAT **THIS** WAS A ROMANCE BEYOND MY WILDEST HOPES AND DREAMS!"

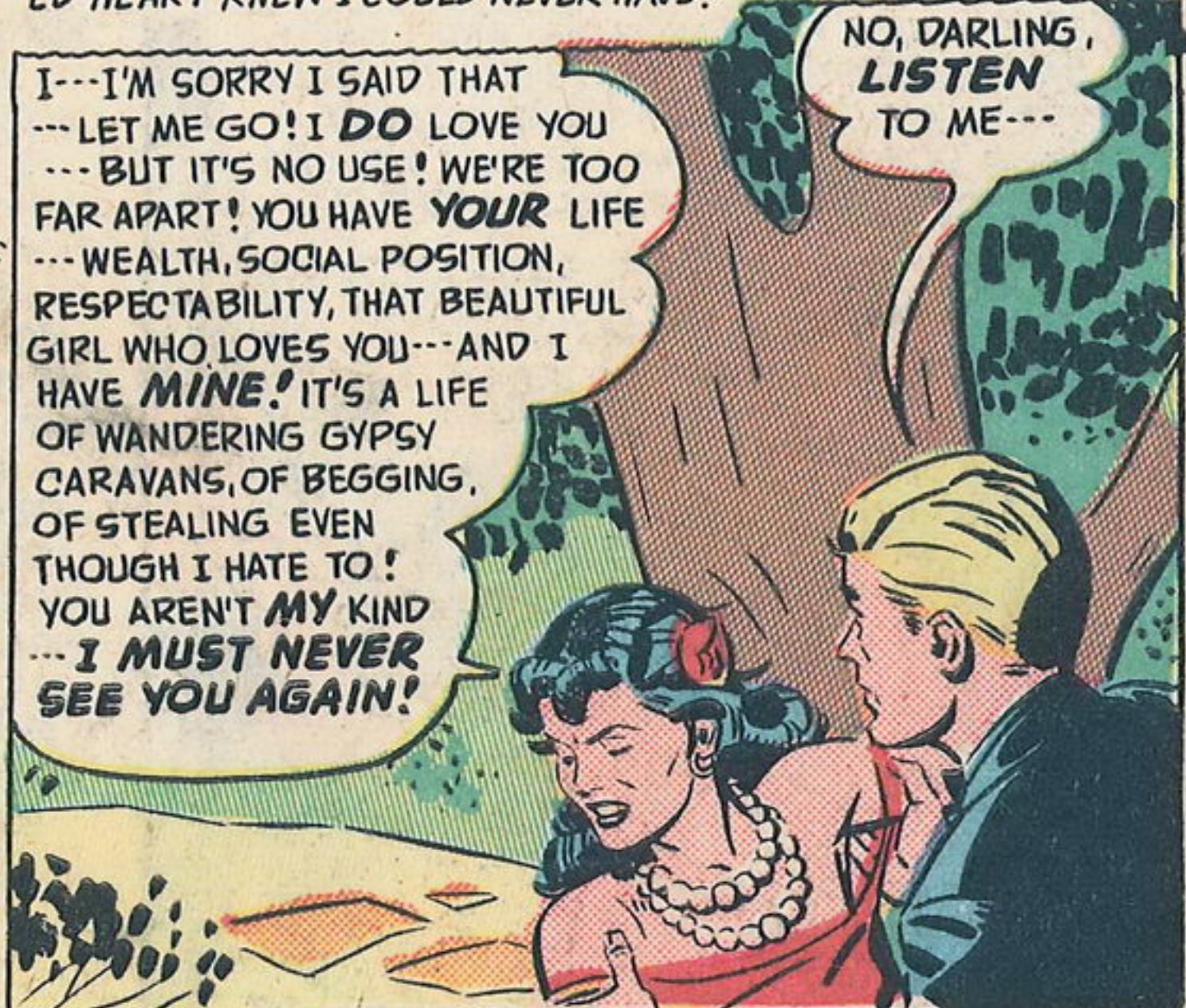
I...LOVE YOU!



"**YES, THIS** WAS THE MAN I WANTED...THE MAN MY ANGUISHED HEART KNEW I COULD NEVER HAVE!"

I...I'M SORRY I SAID THAT... LET ME GO! I **DO** LOVE YOU... BUT IT'S NO USE! WE'RE TOO FAR APART! YOU HAVE **YOUR** LIFE... WEALTH, SOCIAL POSITION, RESPECTABILITY, THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHO LOVES YOU...AND I HAVE **MINE!** IT'S A LIFE OF WANDERING GYPSY CARAVANS, OF BEGGING, OF STEALING EVEN THOUGH I HATE TO! YOU AREN'T **MY** KIND... I **MUST NEVER** SEE YOU AGAIN!

NO, DARLING, **LISTEN** TO ME...



NO MATTER **HOW** DIFFERENTLY WE WERE BROUGHT UP, NO MATTER **HOW** FAR APART WE ARE ON THE SOCIAL LADDER...WE HAVE ONE COMMON BOND THAT IS MIGHTIER THAN **ALL** OUR DIFFERENCES... **WE LOVE EACH OTHER! NOTHING** CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR LOVE...OR OUR HAPPINESS TOGETHER!

NOTHING? WELL, NOTHING THAT MARRIAGE TO **ME** WON'T CURE!



LUCKY FOR **YOU** I HAPPENED TO PASS BY, DARLING! I WAS AFRAID THAT A CHILD LIKE YOU WOULD BE TAKEN IN BY THIS... THIS OUTCAST AND HER GYPSY WILES! BUT YOU **CAN'T** BE SERIOUS WITH THE LIKES OF **HER**...SO I CAN FORGIVE YOU! SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR LITTLE PLAYMATE NOW, AND COME ALONG, DEAR!

YES, I'LL SAY GOODBYE... TO **YOU**, RITA!



YOU'VE GOT NO CLAIM ON ME! I CAN SEE NOW HOW YOU'VE TAKEN ME IN ALL ALONG! YOU'VE GOT NO REAL LOVE IN **YOUR** HEART...MARRIAGE WOULD BE JUST A UNION OF **FORTUNES** FOR **YOU**! I'VE **MADE** MY CHOICE...AND IT'S **TANYA**!



YOU...YOU **COULDN'T** HAVE MEANT WHAT YOU SAID...AND ANYWAY, THE GYPSIES WOULD **NEVER** LET ME MARRY OUT OF THE TRIBE! PLEASE... LET ME GO...



NOT UNTIL YOU PROMISE TO MEET ME IN THE GARDEN TOMORROW NIGHT... READY TO **ELOPE** WITH ME! HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU THE KEY TO THE GATE...

THE KEY! NO, NO, I DON'T WANT IT... I WON'T TAKE IT AND LET YOU... **OH**!

DARLING, WHAT'S WRONG? ...YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'VE SEEN A **GHOST**!



"**B**YOR... HE'D FOLLOWED ME! AND I KNEW HIS DAGGER WOULD BE WINGING WITH DEADLY, WRATHFUL ACCURACY IN ANOTHER MOMENT, STRIKING DOWN HOWARD... UNLESS I YIELDED TO HIS WILL AND TOOK THE KEY... **NOW**!"

ALL RIGHT! GIVE... GIVE ME THE KEY!

THAT'S THE GIRL! DON'T FORGET, DARLING... TOMORROW NIGHT... INSIDE THE GATE!



"WITH POUNDING HEART, I FLED BACK TO THE ENCAMPMENT, KNOWING THAT I WOULD **NEVER** GIVE UP THE KEY... THAT I WOULD **NEVER** LET MY LOVE'S HOME BE PLUNDERED AND RANSACKED, NO MATTER **WHAT** HAPPENED TO ME!"

NO, I WON'T... I **WON'T** GIVE IT TO YOU... HE **TRUSTED** ME WITH IT!

TANYA... WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH YOU? WHAT DOES TRUST OR HONESTY MEAN COMPARED WITH THE LOOT WE CAN GET FROM THAT FOOL'S HOUSE?

I'M TIRED OF ARGUING WITH TREACHERY... THERE ARE **OTHER** WAYS OF MAKING HER GIVE US THE KEY!



"**L**ASH AFTER VICIOUS LASH, SENDING RED-HOT LANCES OF FIERY AGONY COURSE THROUGH MY PAIN-WRACKED BODY! BUT THEY ONLY FANNED MY LOVE TO AN EVEN GREATER HEIGHT!"

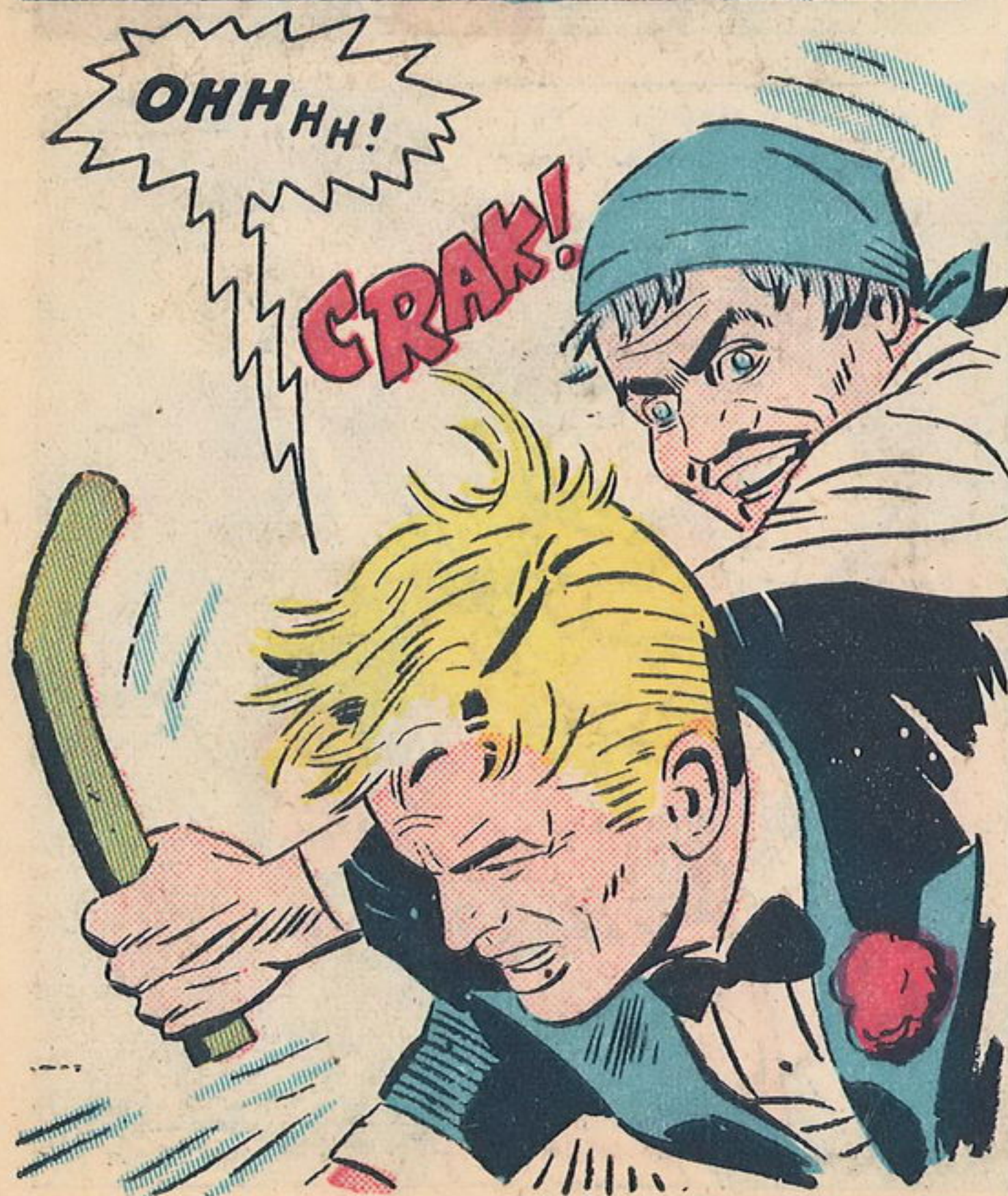
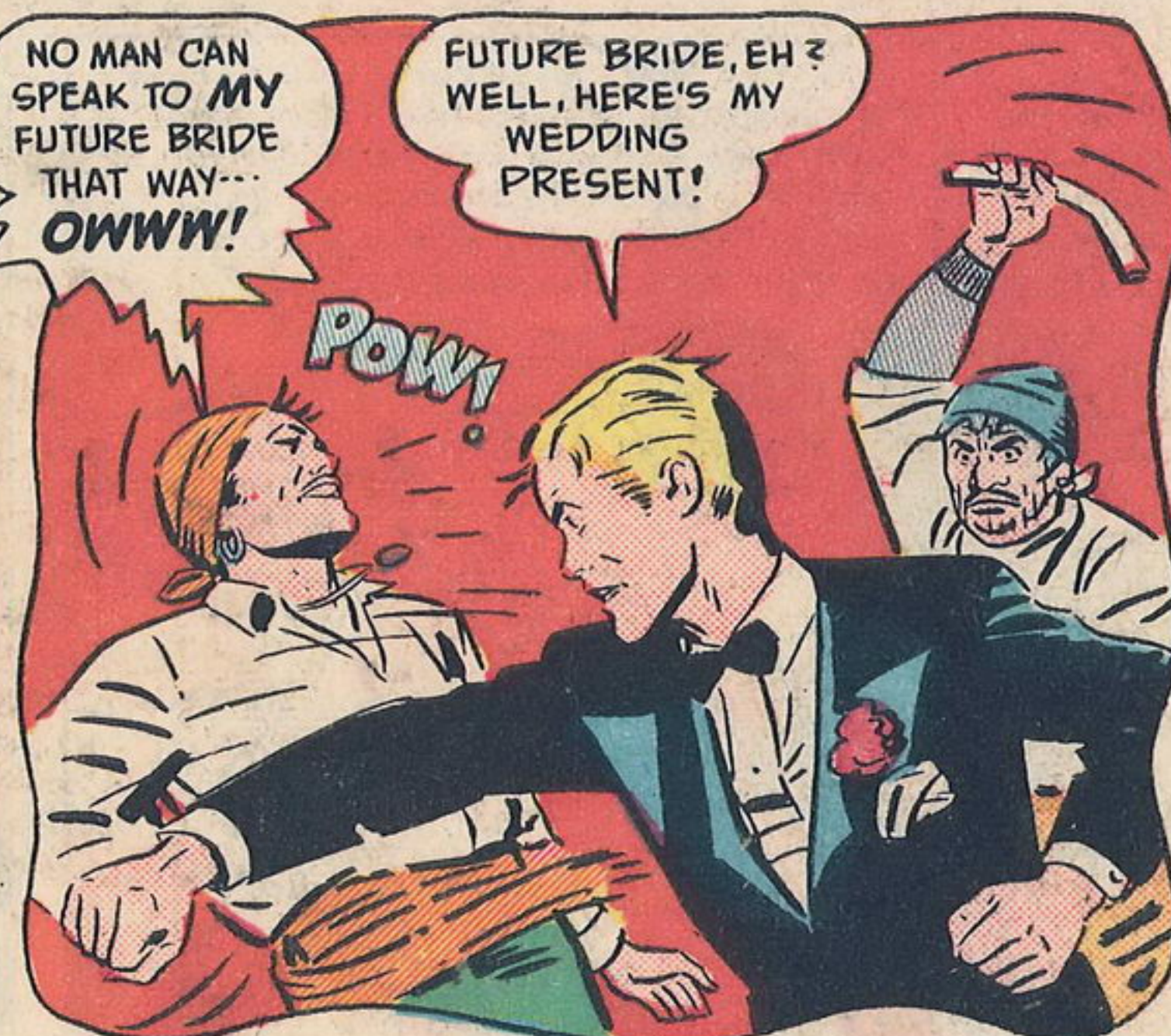


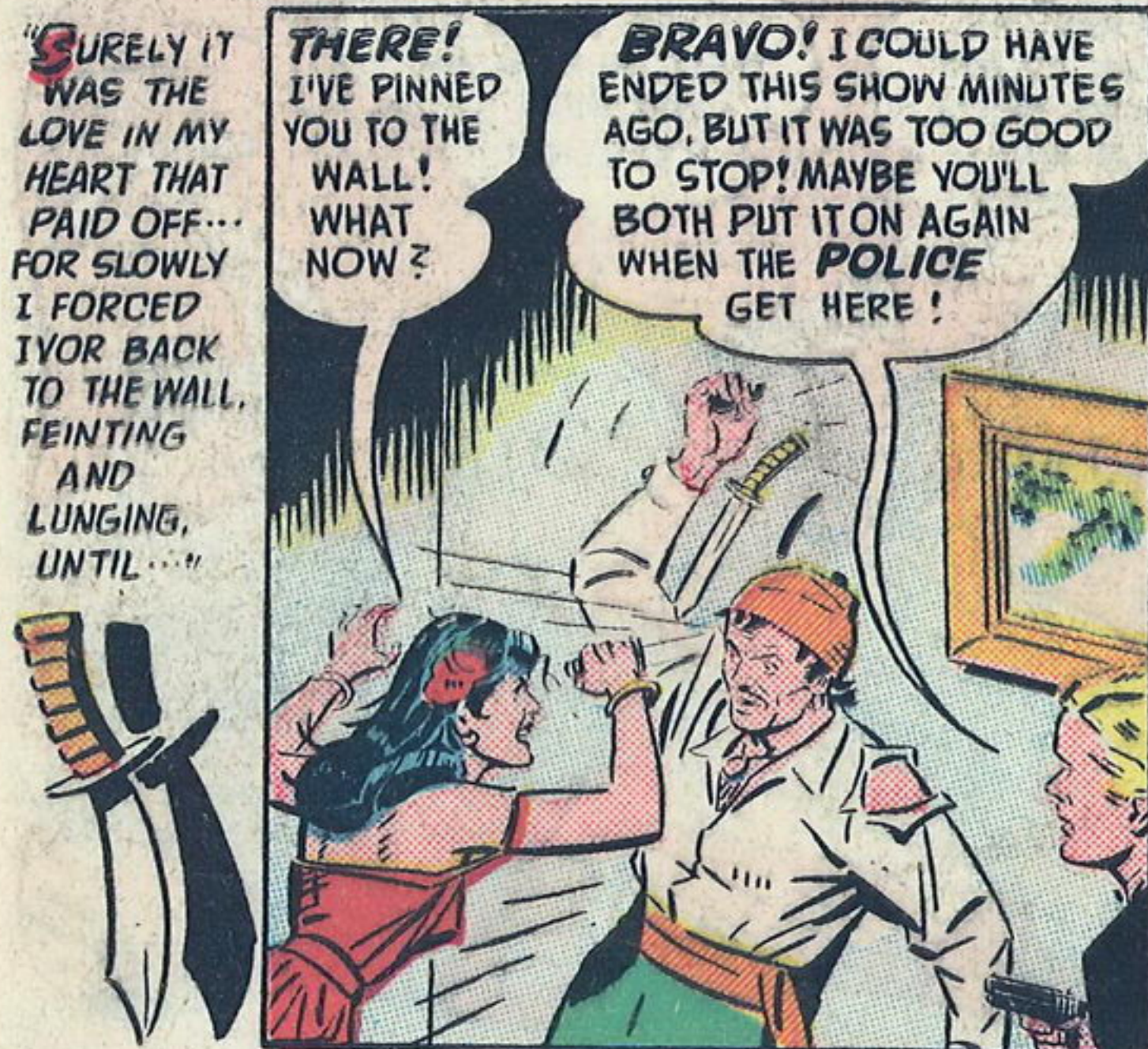
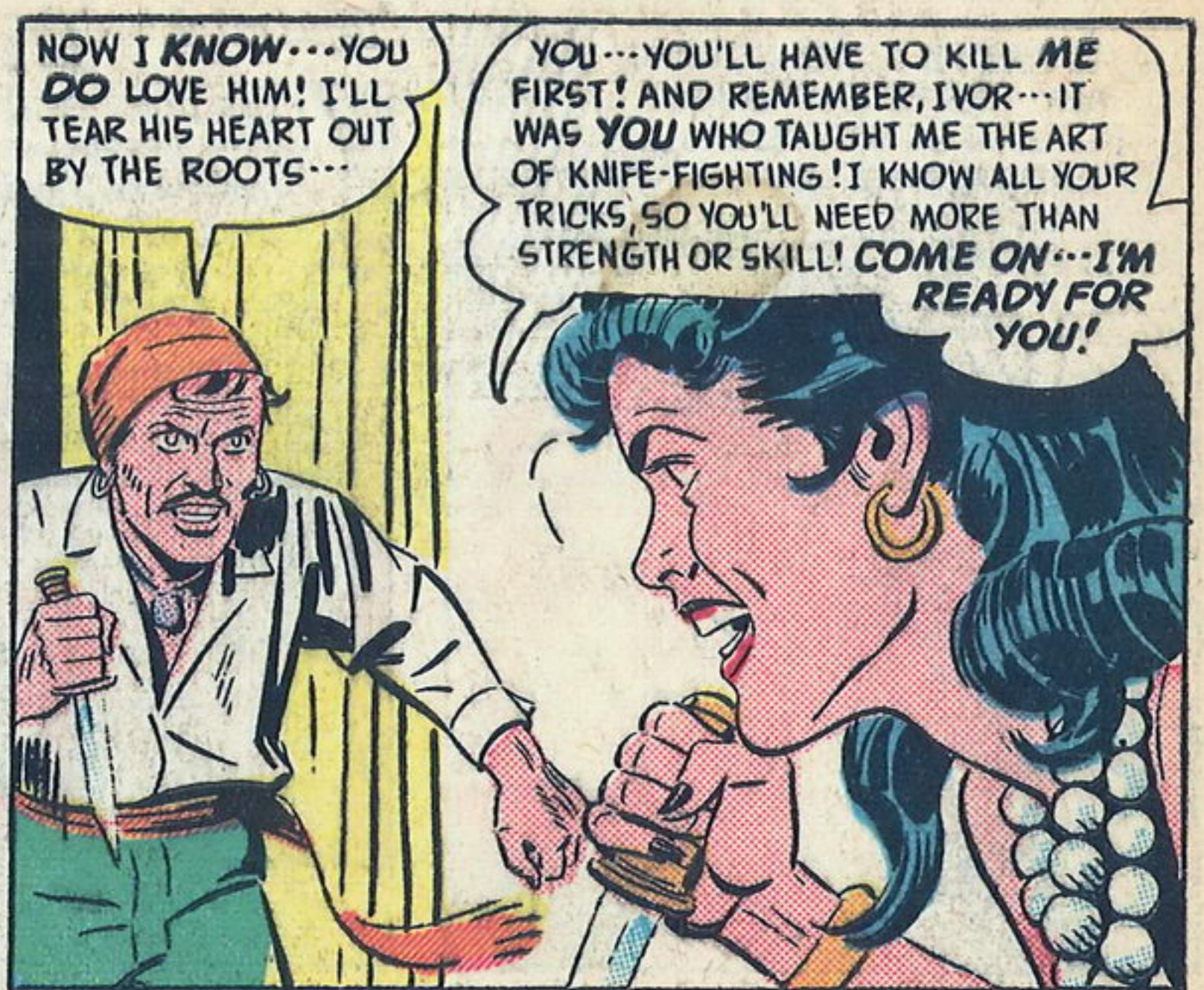
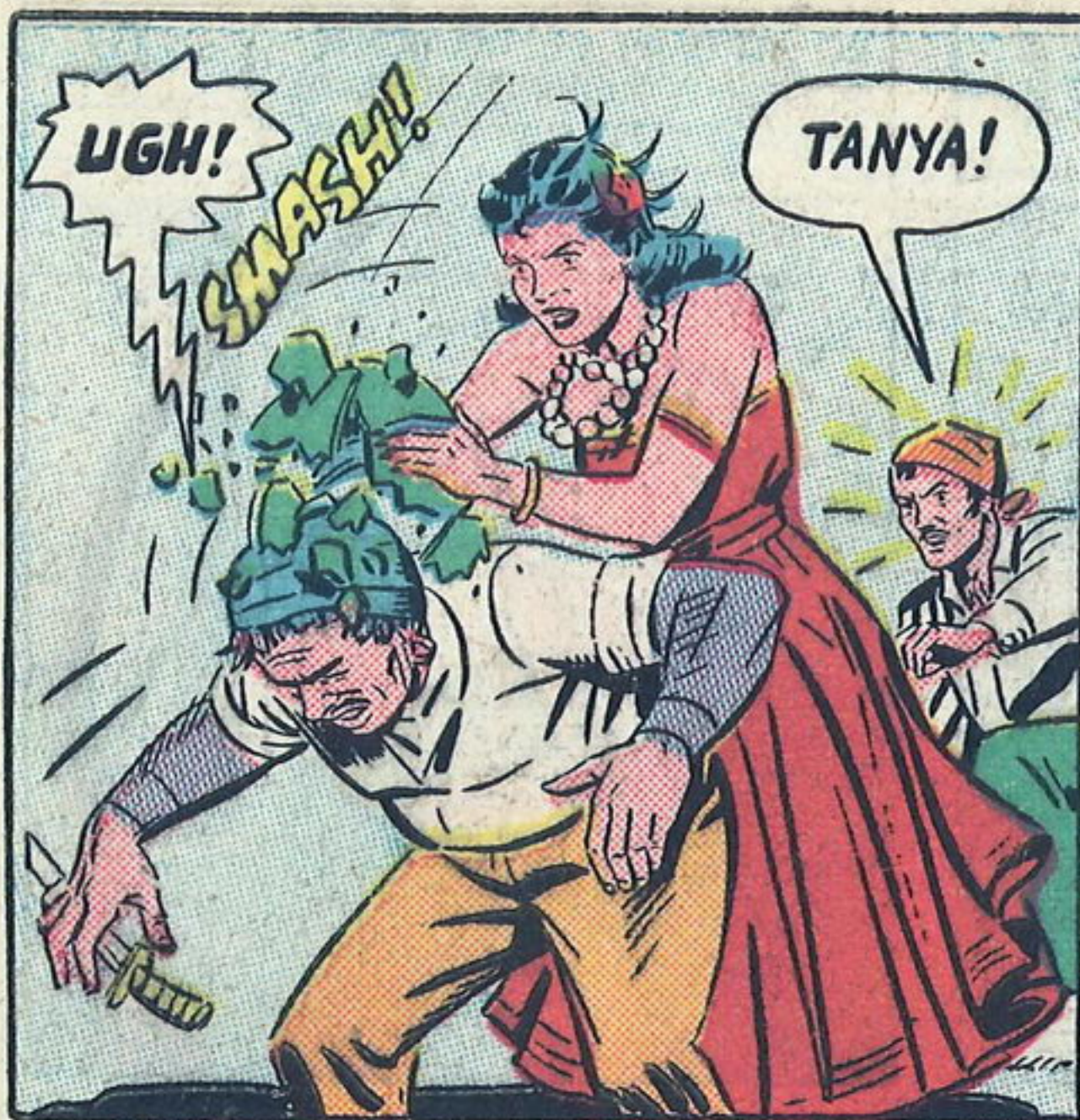
NO... NO... I **WON'T**...

WAIT, FATHER!... IT ISN'T **HONESTY** THAT'S FORCING YOU TO GO THROUGH THIS TORTURE... YOU MUST BE IN **LOVE** WITH THE FOOL, TANYA! AND IF YOU ARE, I'LL FIND HIM AND CUT HIS HEART OUT! GIVE ME THE KEY OR I'LL KNOW YOU **DO** LOVE HIM... AND HE'LL KNOW... **DEATH**!

WHAT! ...NO, I... I **DON'T** LOVE HIM!

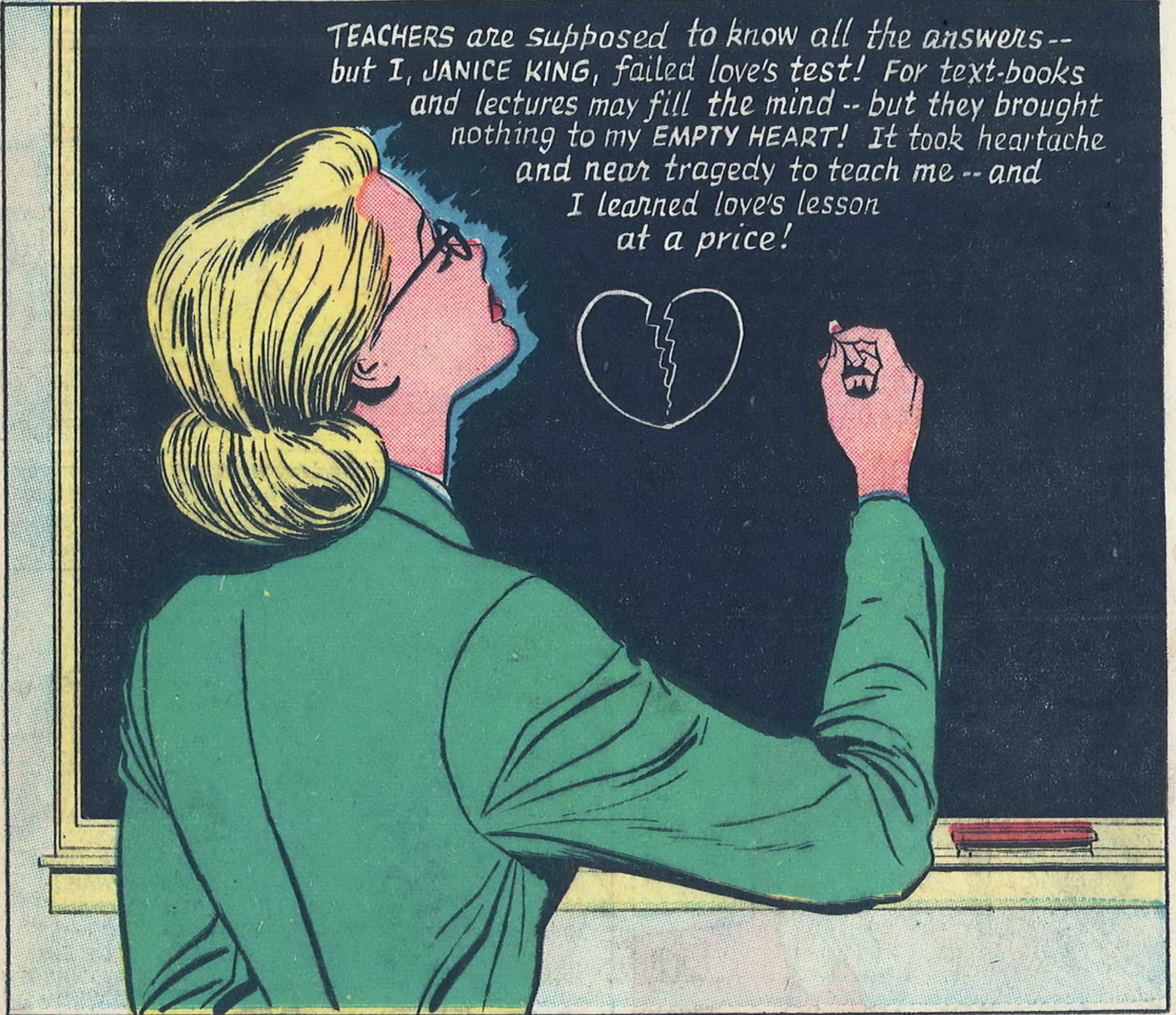






Classrooms Aren't For Kisses

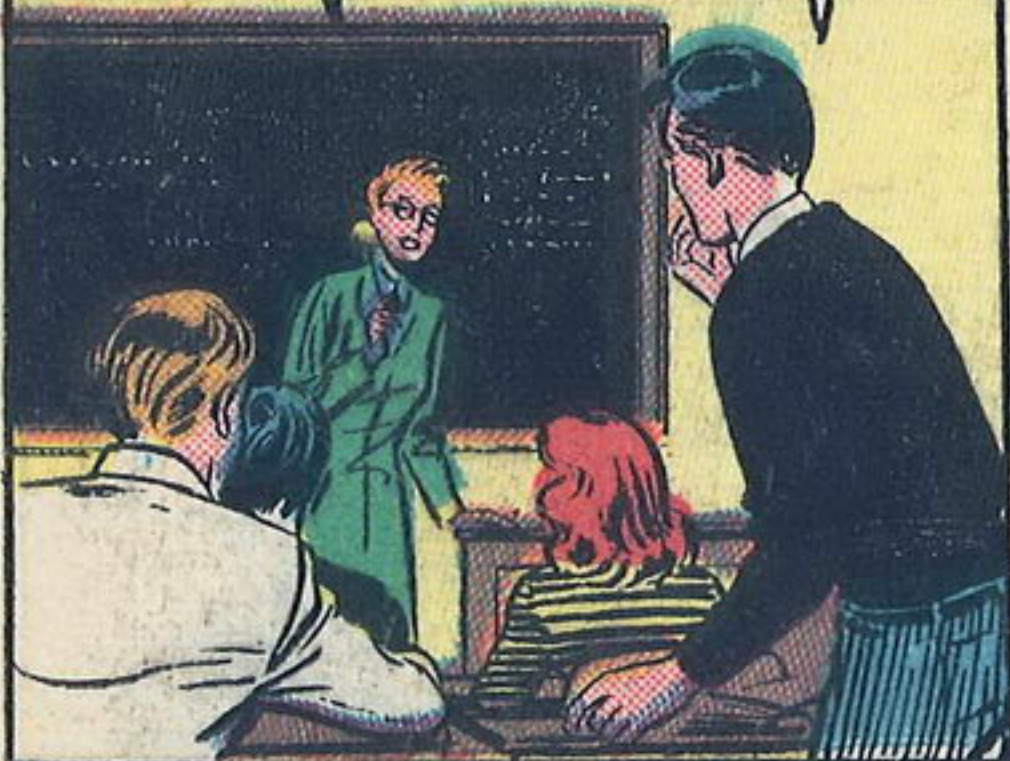
TEACHERS are supposed to know all the answers -- but I, JANICE KING, failed love's test! For text-books and lectures may fill the mind -- but they brought nothing to my **EMPTY HEART!** It took heartache and near tragedy to teach me -- and I learned love's lesson at a price!



"Can a classroom be a **PRISON CELL**, reader? **MINE** was -- an austere place that banished all thoughts of men, dates, pretty clothes -- all the things that a woman's soul cherishes!"

AND WHAT DID CAESAR SAY TO BRUTUS, DAVID?

UH -- HE SAID -- THAT IS --



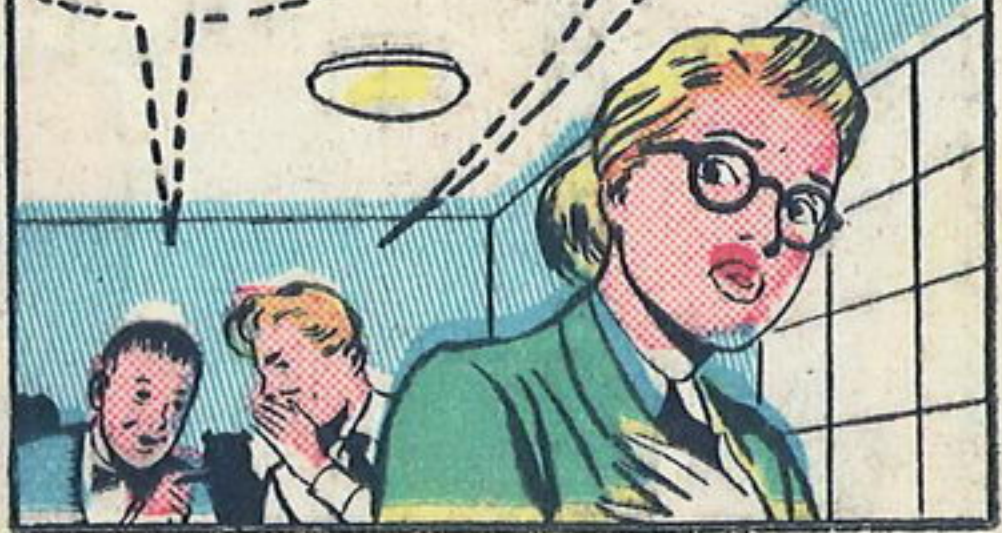
"Children -- school -- **THESE** were my world, and I knew no other! But I had my **DREAMS** -- of beauty -- of **ROMANCE!**"



"And thus the years slipped by -- and I lived two separate lives! One was the drab routine of instruction -- the other, the glamor of my inner visions! I didn't realize what I was becoming -- until one day -- "

THERE'S A DAME WHO OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES HUH? PLAYIN' **OLD MAID PARTS!**

YEAH -- **OLD LADY KING!** BET SHE'D DROP DEAD IF SHE WAS KISSED!



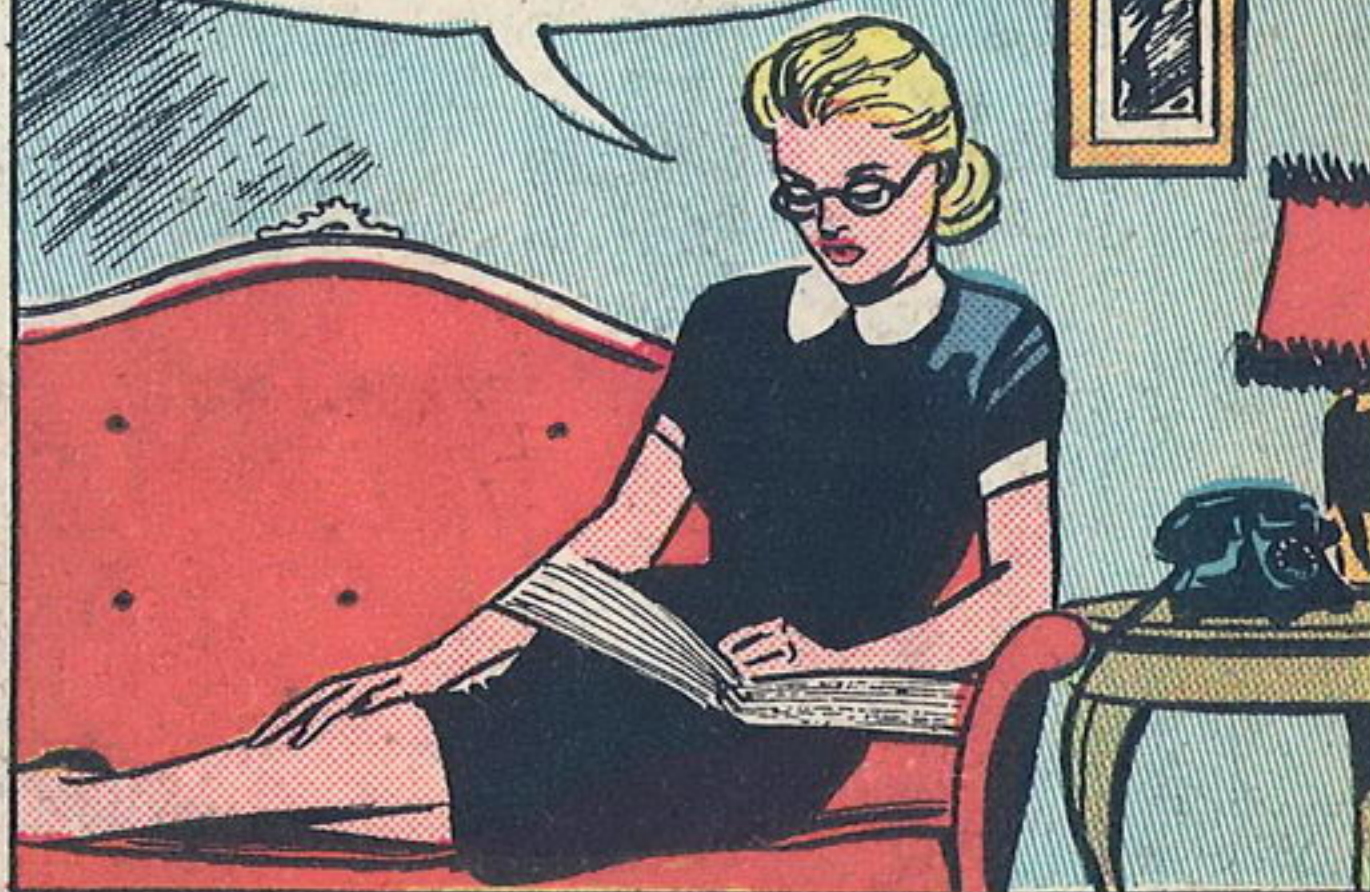
"Had I heard correctly? Could it be that they were discussing **ME**, Janice King--not yet 27 years of age? I felt my eyes tearing as I rushed towards the faculty room! And there--I learned the truth!"

THEY'RE RIGHT! I AM OLD--OLD BEFORE MY TIME!



"Was this my fate? Was it too late to change? **NO!** I could **STILL** alter my ways--become a **WOMAN**, rather than the prissy school-marm I'd been!"

MEN--THEY COULD BE THE SOLUTION! LET ME SEE NOW--WHAT BOYS DID I USED TO KNOW? THERE WAS CHRIS--CHRIS SANFORD--BUT THAT WAS TWELVE YEARS AGO!



HELLO? CHRIS SANFORD? -- THIS IS JANICE KING! DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME? WE WERE FRIENDS AT HIGH SCHOOL --

WHO? WHAT? LISTEN, I'VE GOT TO HANG UP! MY WIFE'S OUT, AND I'M BABY-SITTING WITH THREE KIDS!



"Desperately, I searched my memory! There must have been **OTHER** boys I had once known and laughed with!-- **GLENN RUTLEDGE!** It had been **YEARS**, but he'd known me, seemed to like me --"

HELLO, GLENN-- DO YOU REMEMBER ME? JANICE KING?



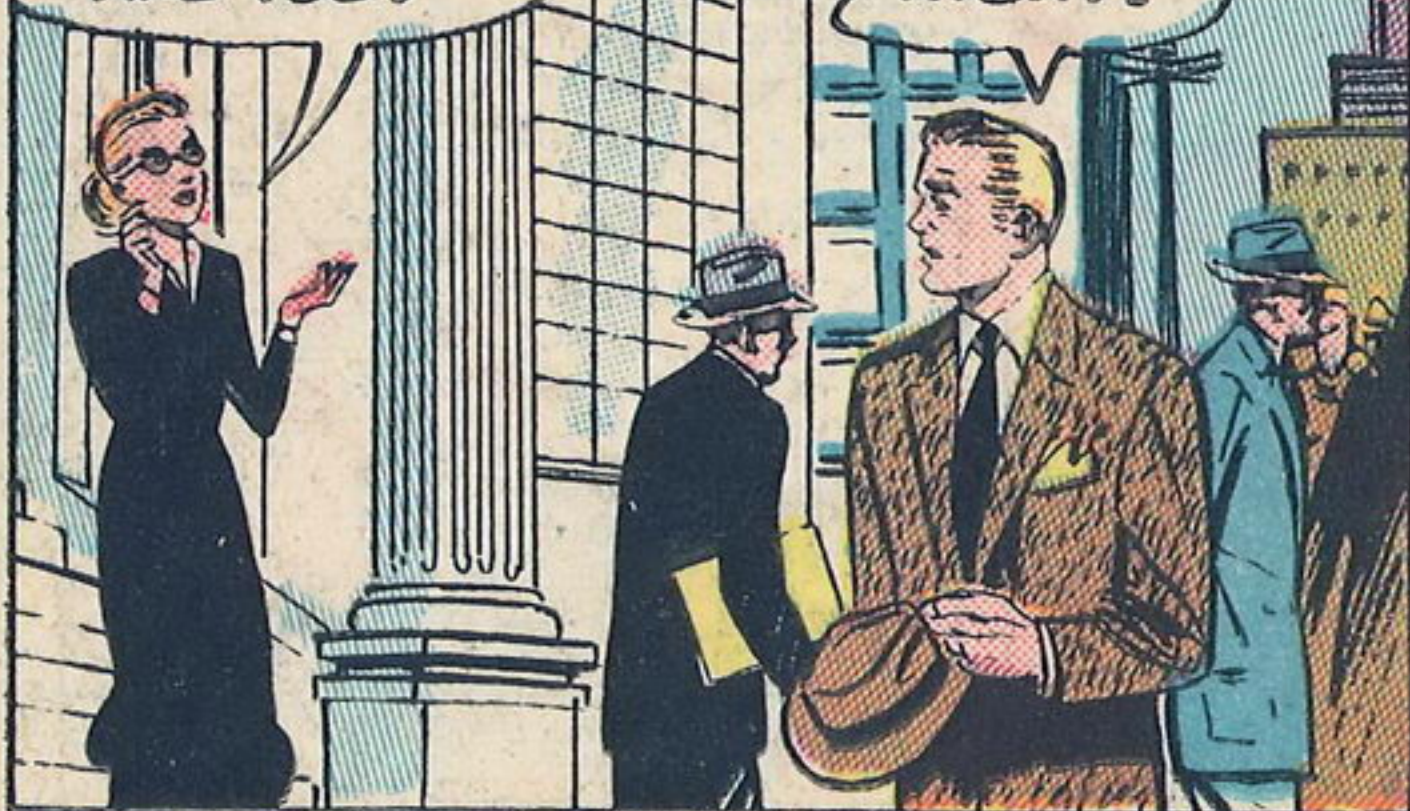
JANICE KING? NO, I CAN'T QUITE--WAIT! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT! WHY DON'T YOU MEET ME IN FRONT OF THE ASTOR IN A HALF-HOUR AND WE'LL SEE--



"My heart beat wildly, hopefully, as I waited -- and then I saw him!"

OH, GLENN-- IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! WHY, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT! HOW ARE YOU?

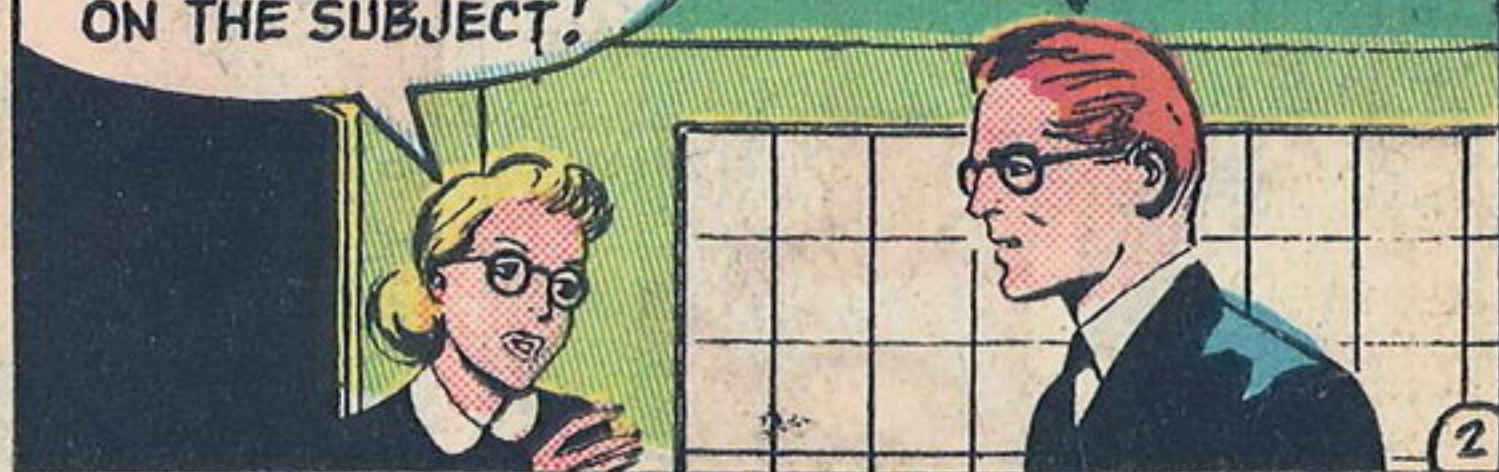
I -- I'M AWFULLY SORRY-- THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE-- I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE EVER MET YOU! SORRY! **GOOD NIGHT!**



"Had the years changed me **THIS** much? Humiliated, discouraged, I realized there wasn't another man -- **BUT WAIT! PETER DAWSON--THE NEW ENGLISH TEACHER!** He wasn't **MUCH** of a man -- but I had no choice! So --"

MR. DAWSON, I'M DOING RESEARCH ON THE EARLY LIFE OF SHAKESPEARE, AND I WONDER IF -- IF YOU COULD HELP ME IN MY LIBRARY WORK! I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE AN **AUTHORITY** ON THE SUBJECT!

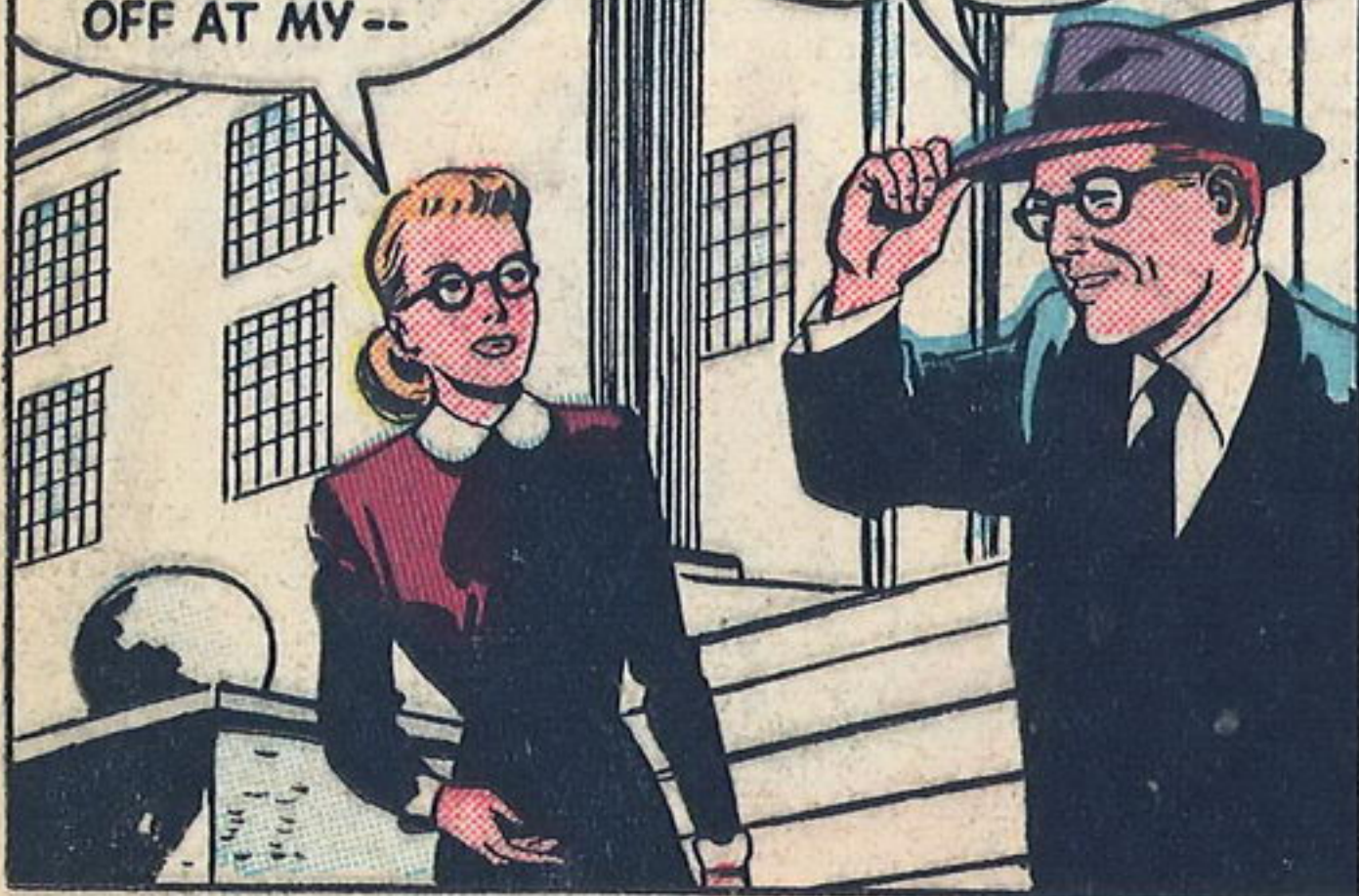
OF COURSE, MISS KING! A FASCINATING SUBJECT INDEED -- AND IN THE INTERESTS OF SCHOLARSHIP, I'LL BE **GLAD** TO ASSIST YOU!



"That night we worked in the library until closing time! Shakespeare was coming out of my ears-- but I had my campaign planned!"

THAT'S DONE, AND THANKS, MR. DAWSON-- BUT THE EVENING'S STILL YOUNG! HOW ABOUT STOPPING OFF AT MY--

AH, SHAKESPEARE! DELIGHTFUL, WASN'T IT? IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE, MISS KING, AND-- **GOOD NIGHT!**



"Again I'd lost out--and I deserved it, for even considering him! But a few days later--"

MISS KING, KNOWING YOUR KEEN INTEREST IN ELIZABETHAN DRAMA, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO ACCOMPANY ME TO A LECTURE ON THE SUBJECT THIS EVENING!

ER, THANKS, BUT--OH, ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE TO DO!



"The speaker must have been paid by the hour--I was so bored I wanted to SCREAM!"

HOW BRILLIANT! HOW KEEN HIS MIND IS! DOESN'T HE **STIR** YOU?

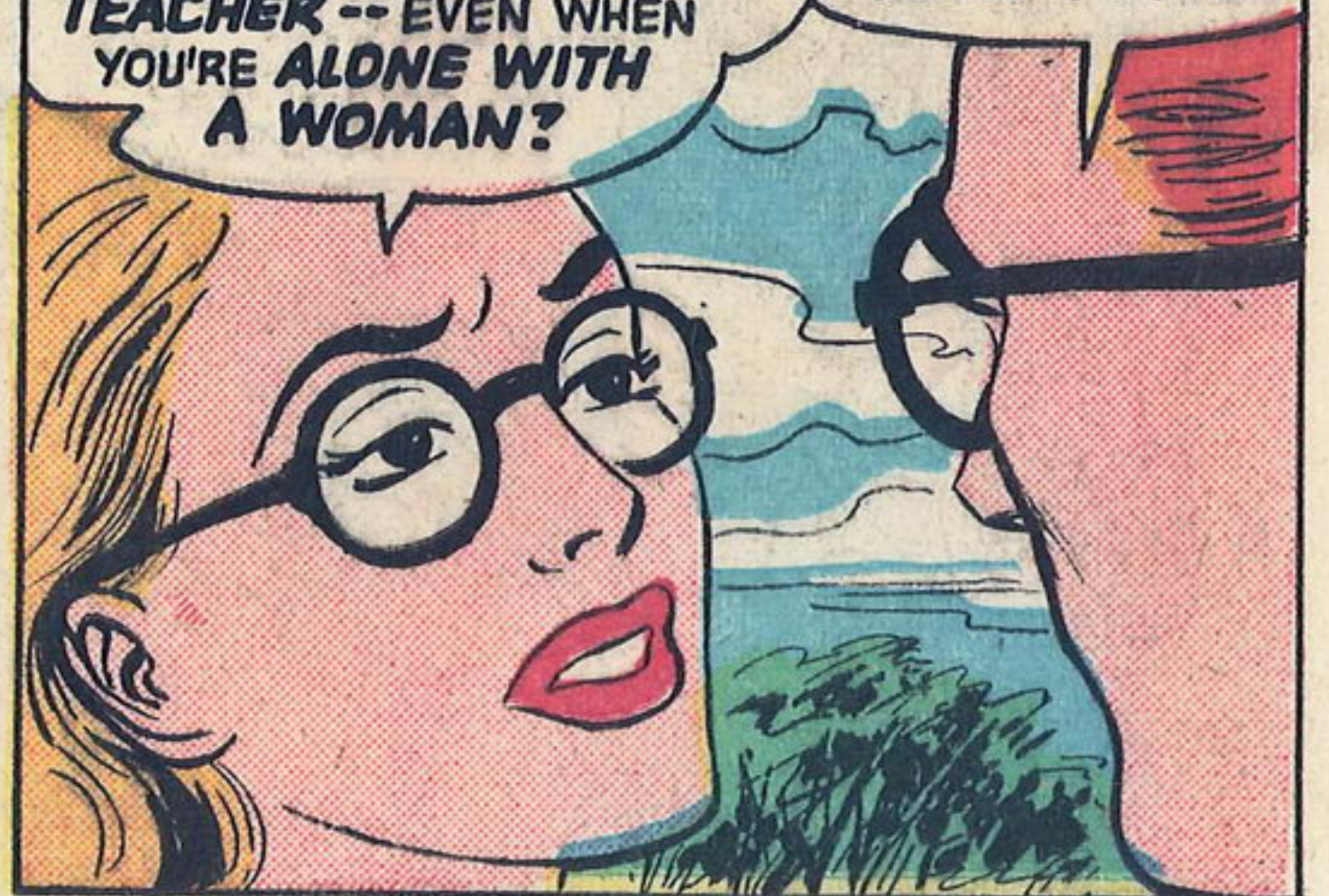
OH, DEFINITELY! EXCEPT FOR THIS HEADACHE-- LOOK, PETER, IT'S A **LOVELY** NIGHT! COULDN'T WE-- TAKE A NICE WALK DOWN TO THE RIVER?



"Yes, we walked--while Peter droned on about the lecture--about books and essays--until I couldn't **STAND** it any longer!"

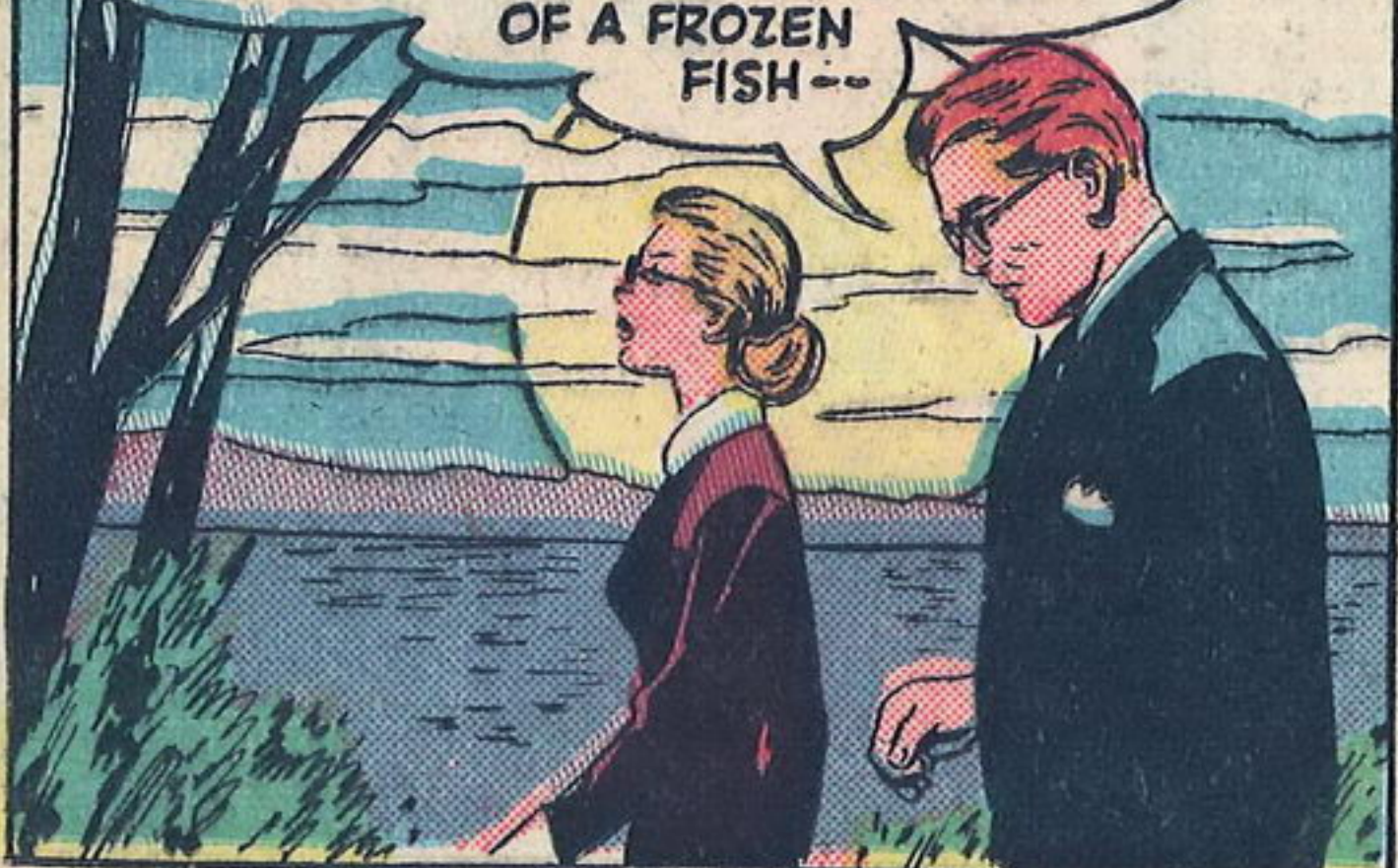
OH, PETER! **SHUT UP!** WHAT SORT OF MAN ARE YOU? DO YOU **HAVE** TO BE A **SCHOOL TEACHER**-- EVEN WHEN YOU'RE **ALONE WITH A WOMAN?**

B-BUT, JANICE! I--I DON'T **UNDERSTAND!**



"We walked on in painful silence! I realized that I had hurt him--and that I was scorning him for being the same sort of person that I had been!"

I GUESS I'VE BEEN MAKING A FOOL OF MYSELF, JANICE-- I'M TERRIBLY SORRY! IT'S JUST THAT--WELL, I'M NOT USED TO WOMEN! I-I GUESS I'M SORT OF A **FROZEN FISH**--



"Something about the way he said that-- a boyish, guileless quality--warmed my heart, brought a catch to my throat!"

LOOK, PETER, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE MY ARM? -- I **PROMISE** THAT I WON'T BITE!





WELL, IN **THAT CASE--** I GUESS I CAN RISK IT!

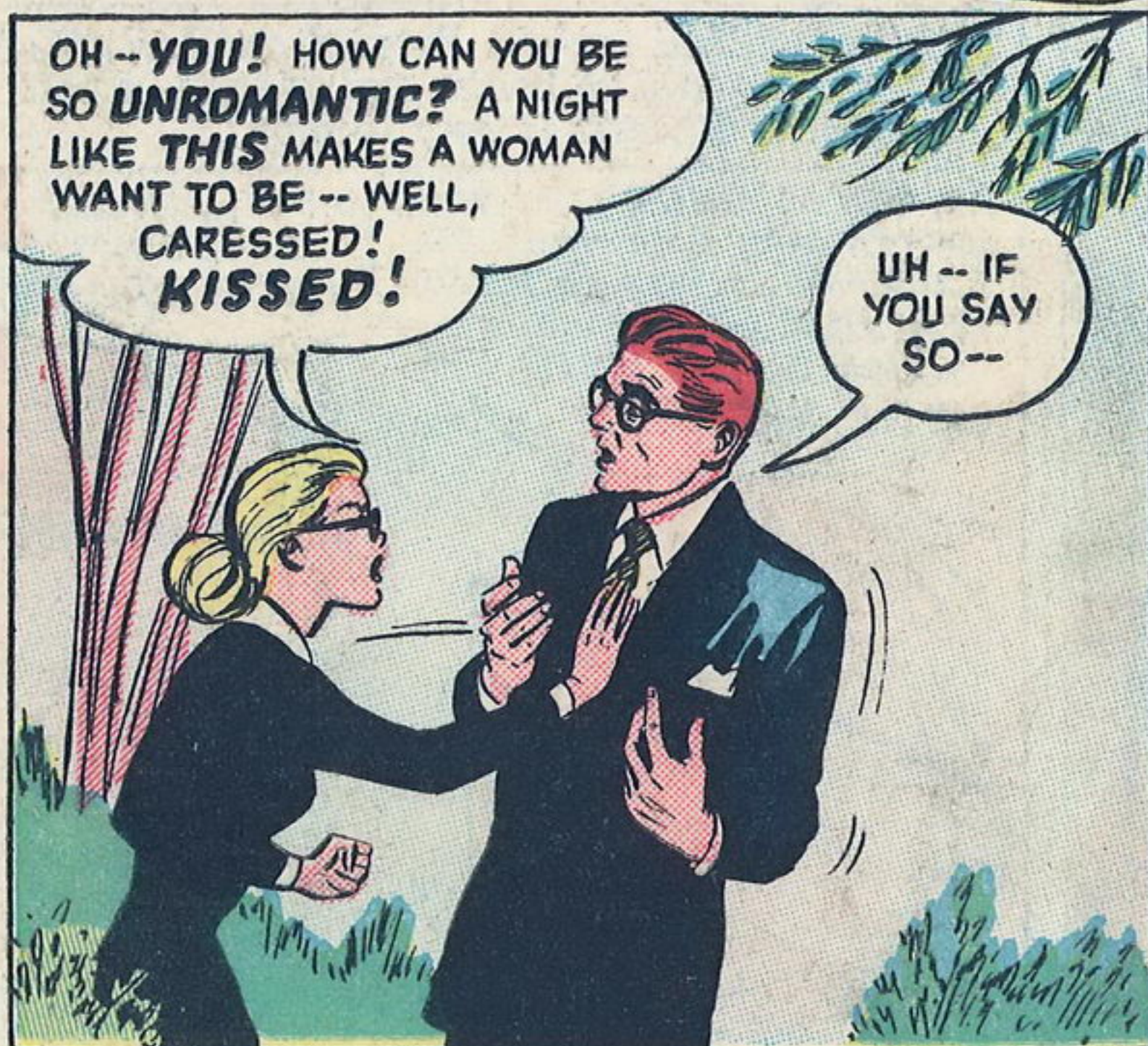
THAT'S **BETTER!** WASN'T SO HARD **AFTER ALL,** WAS IT?

"We were together often after that night-- for I thought that I sensed, beneath his scholarly exterior, a warmer, more winning Peter Dawson! If only I could make him forget his books, his studies-- **REALLY** awaken him to me! Then, one evening--"



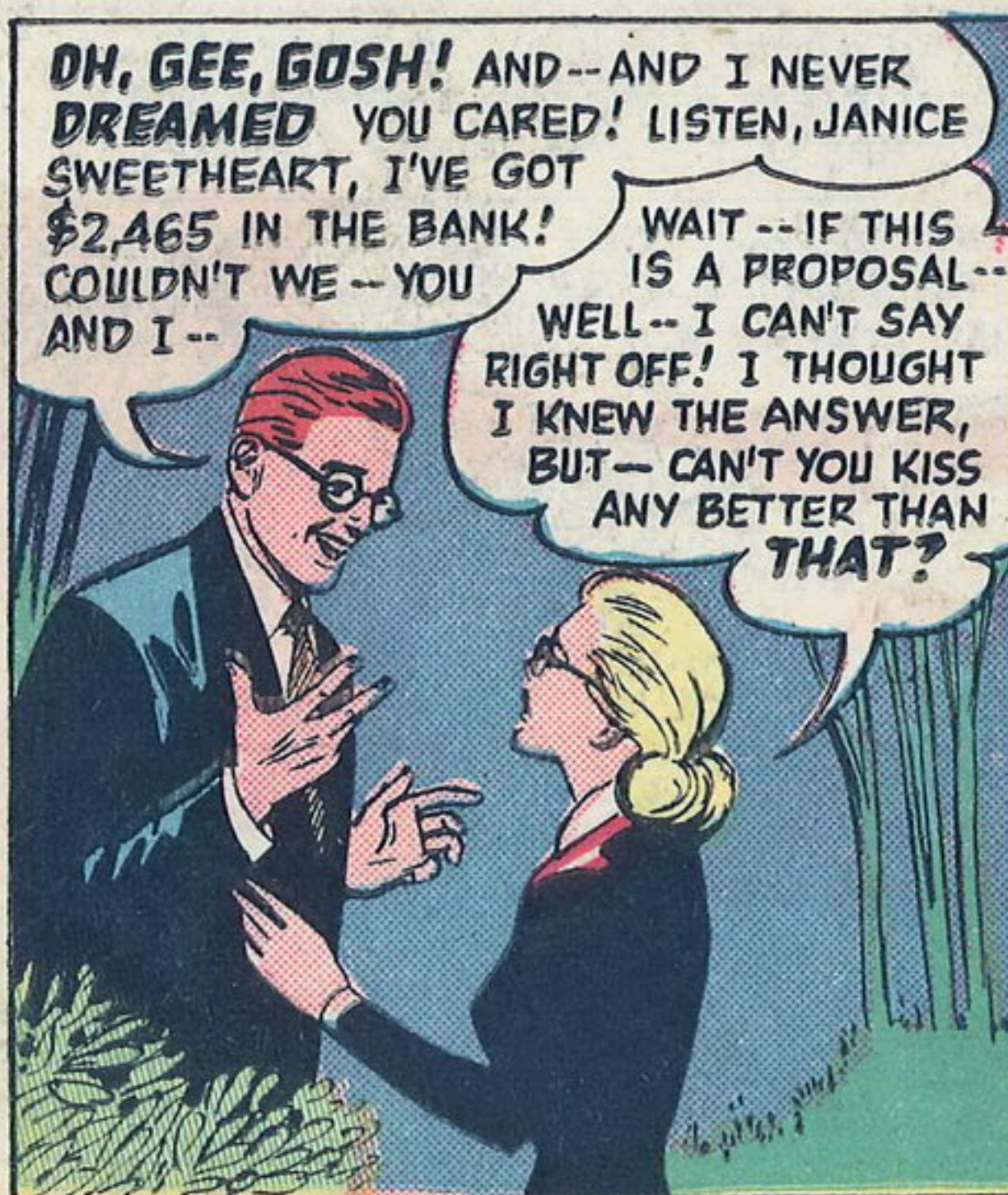
OH, A NIGHT LIKE THIS -- SO HUSHED AND EXCITING -- IT **DOES** SOMETHING TO A WOMAN -- DO YOU KNOW THAT, PETER?

ER -- YOU MEAN -- YOU MAY CATCH **COLD?** HERE -- TAKE MY COAT AND --



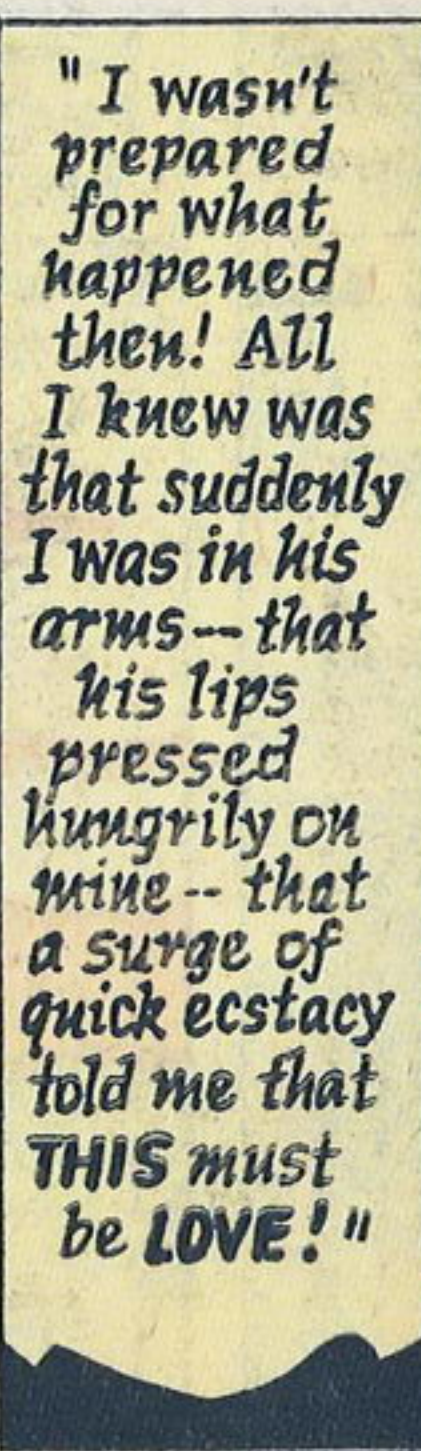
OH -- **YOU!** HOW CAN YOU BE SO **UNROMANTIC?** A NIGHT LIKE **THIS** MAKES A WOMAN WANT TO BE -- WELL, **CARESSSED! KISSED!**

UH -- IF YOU SAY SO--

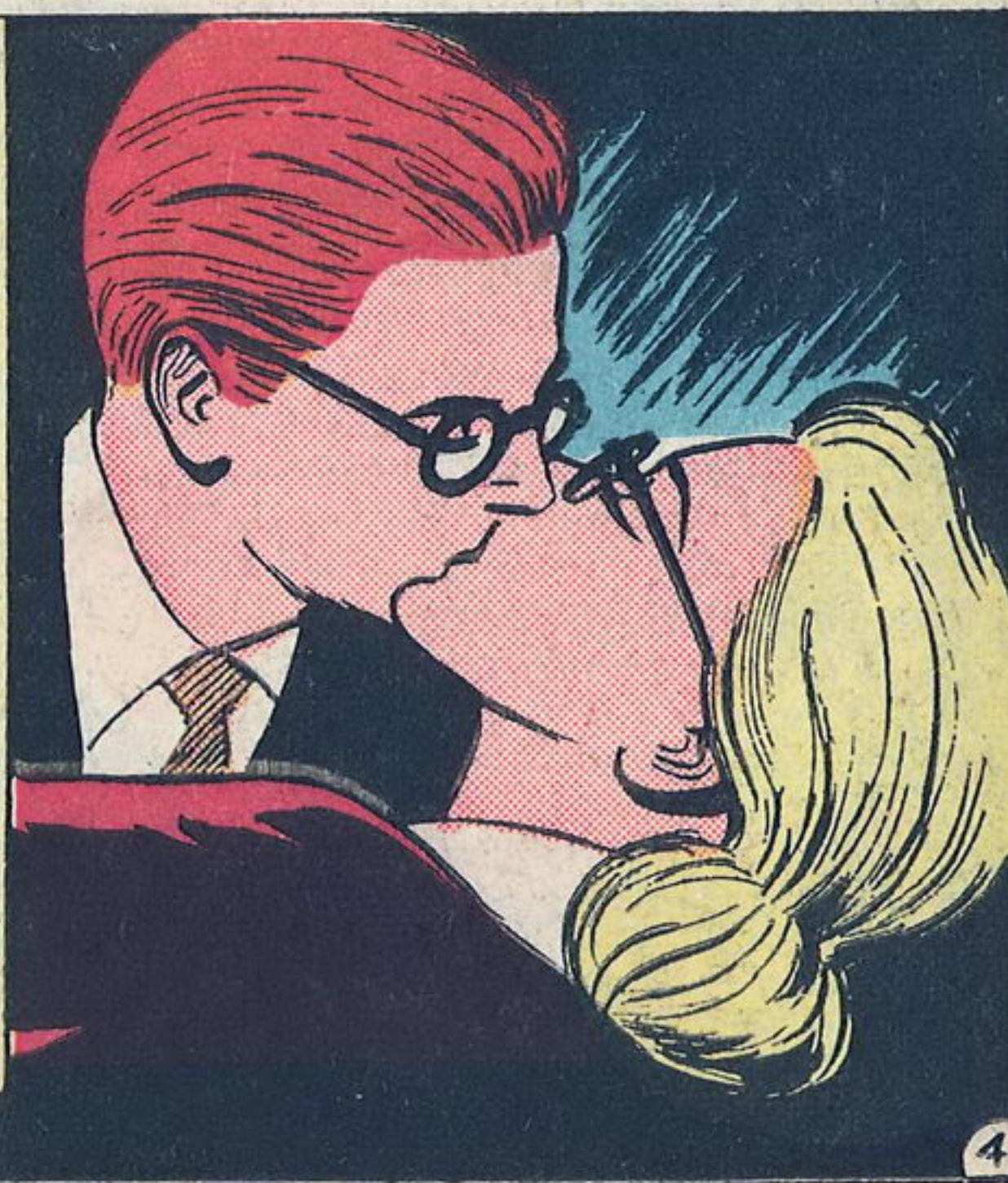


OH, GEE, GOSH! AND--AND I NEVER **DREAMED** YOU CARED! LISTEN, JANICE SWEETHEART, I'VE GOT \$2,465 IN THE BANK! COULDN'T WE -- YOU AND I --

WAIT -- IF THIS IS A PROPOSAL-- WELL-- I CAN'T SAY RIGHT OFF! I THOUGHT I KNEW THE ANSWER, BUT-- CAN'T YOU KISS ANY BETTER THAN **THAT?**



"I wasn't prepared for what happened then! All I knew was that suddenly I was in his arms-- that his lips pressed hungrily on mine-- that a surge of quick ecstasy told me that **THIS** must be **LOVE!**"





OH, PETER, PETER!-- THAT WAS -- **WONDERFUL!** YOU-- YOU WERE ASKING ME SOMETHING BEFORE-- **AND I WANT TO HEAR IT AGAIN!**

I WAS SAYING-- **JANICE, DO YOU REALIZE THAT IT'S 8:53?** WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE **P.T.A. MEETING!**



"Dreams shattered, I crashed from the romantic heights-- and tenderness vanished, gave way to hot fury!"

AND I -- THOUGHT I COULD MAKE A **MAN** OUT OF YOU! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A FOSSILIZED OLD SCHOOL TEACHER -- AND THAT'S ALL YOU'LL **EVER** BE!



"I'd been a **FOOL**-- but I'd learned my lesson! **GLAMOR, ADVENTURE, ROMANCE**-- the darlings of my dreams-- From now on, I vowed to find them! But -- far from any **SCHOOL!**"

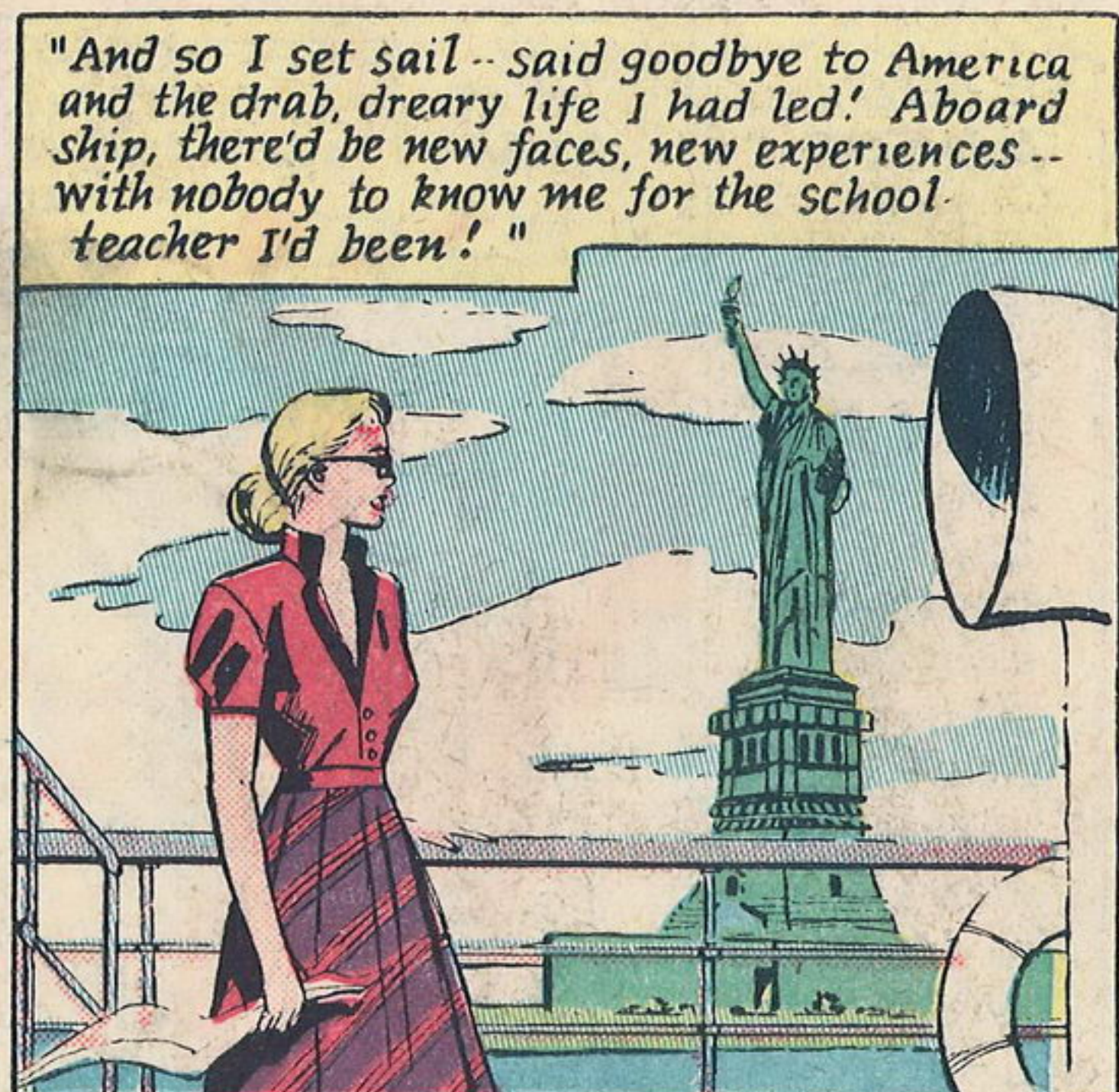
HIM AND HIS **\$2,465!** I'VE GOT ALMOST THAT MUCH MYSELF-- AND SUMMER VACATION BEGINS SOON! I'LL USE IT ALL FOR A **TRIP TO EUROPE!** LOVE, ADVENTURE -- THEY'LL ALL BE MINE YET!



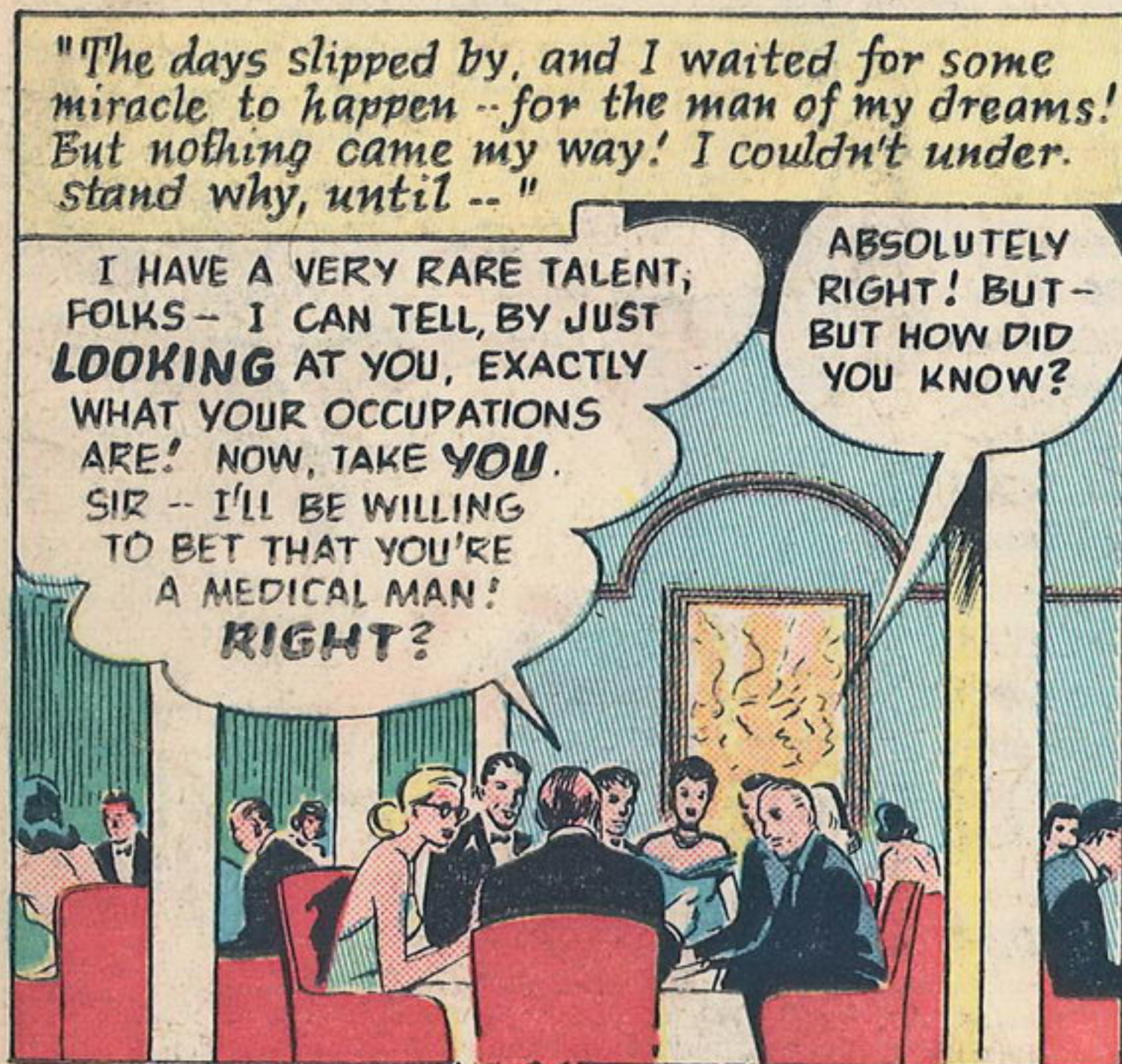
"Yes, I'd be a **NEW Janice King**--not the drab schoolteacher I'd been! That meant new clothes..."

BUT, MISS KING, YOU'VE **NEVER** BOUGHT DRESSES LIKE **THESE** BEFORE! YOU USUALLY BUY-- WELL, MORE -- **CONSERVATIVE** THINGS!

MAYBE THAT'S BEEN MY **TROUBLE!** PLEASE WRAP THEM UP-- I'M LEAVING FOR EUROPE TOMORROW!



"And so I set sail -- said goodbye to America and the drab, dreary life I had led! Aboard ship, there'd be new faces, new experiences -- with nobody to know me for the school-teacher I'd been!"



"The days slipped by, and I waited for some miracle to happen -- for the man of my dreams! But nothing came my way! I couldn't understand why, until --"

I HAVE A VERY RARE TALENT, FOLKS -- I CAN TELL, BY JUST **LOOKING** AT YOU, EXACTLY WHAT YOUR OCCUPATIONS ARE! NOW, TAKE **YOU**. SIR -- I'LL BE WILLING TO BET THAT YOU'RE A MEDICAL MAN! **RIGHT?**

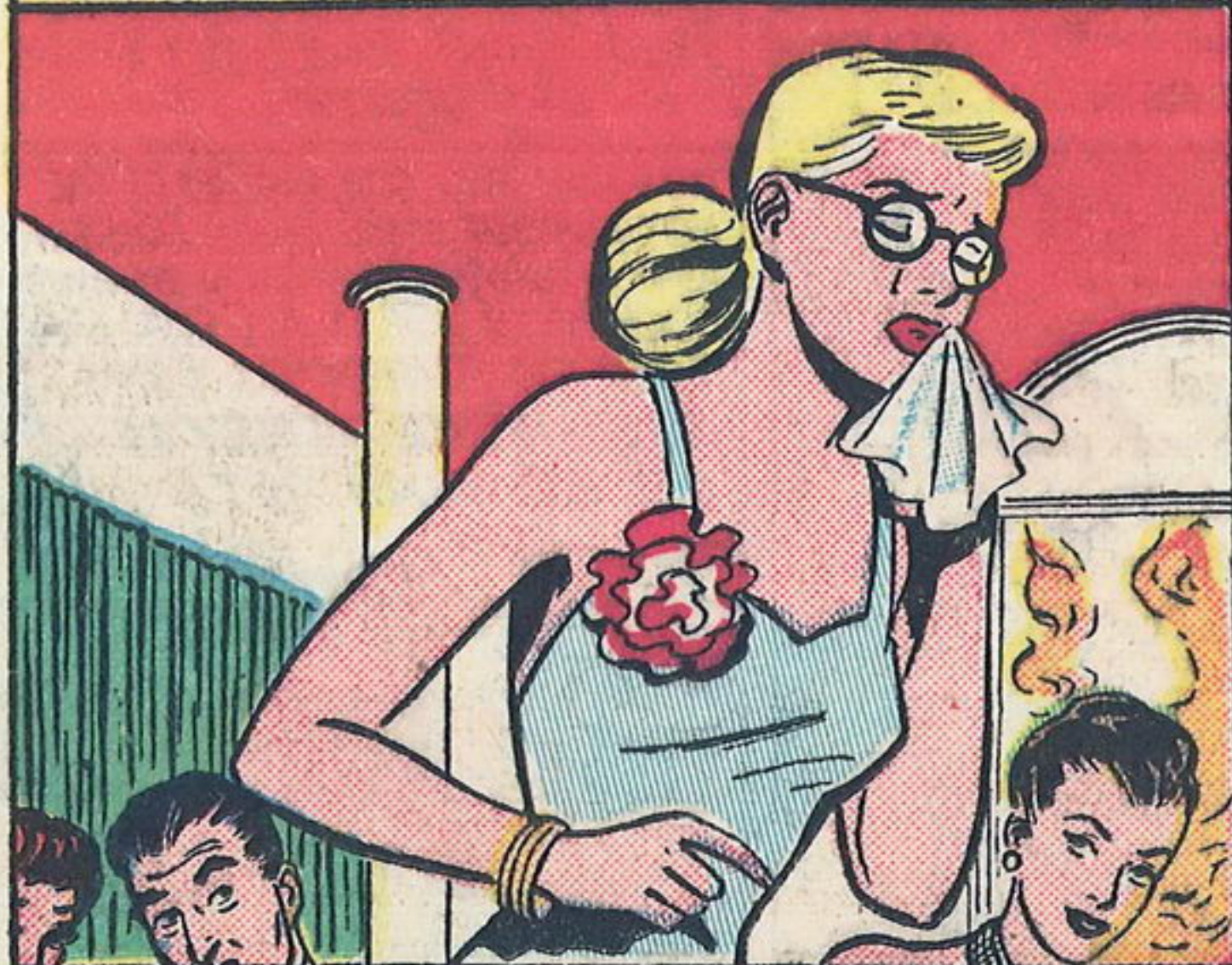
ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! BUT -- BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?



IT'S EASY -- APPEARANCES NEVER LIE! NOW, **YOU**, YOUNG LADY! IN A MILLION YEARS, YOU COULDN'T BE ANYTHING BUT A **SCHOOLMARM!** CORRECT?

OH! YOU **KNEW!**

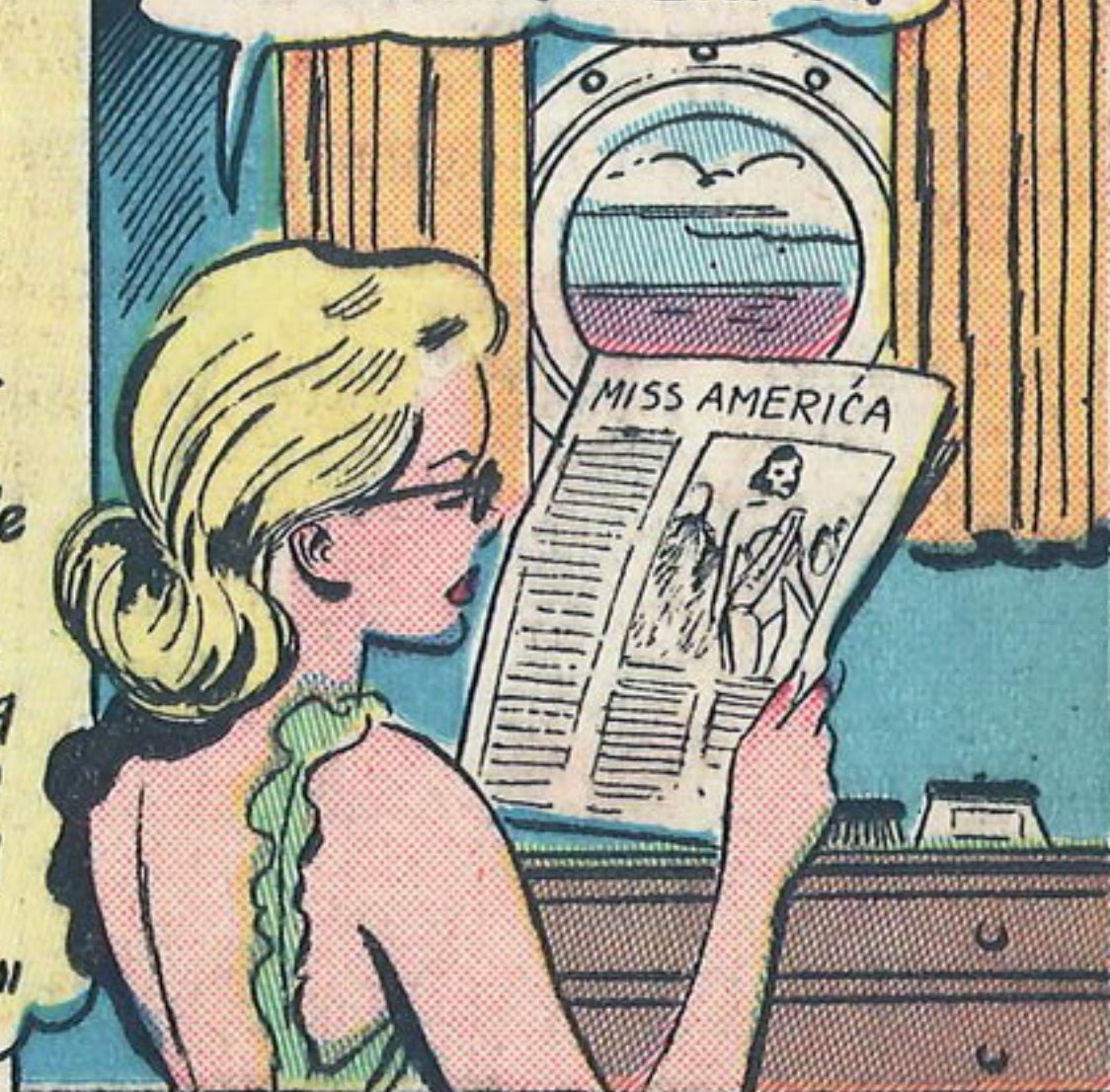
"I stumbled away in tears! There it was-- and I couldn't get away from it! Fate had cast me in the mold of a colorless teacher-- that's what I was and would always be!"



"But later came rebellion--and the decision to TRY JUST ONCE MORE!"

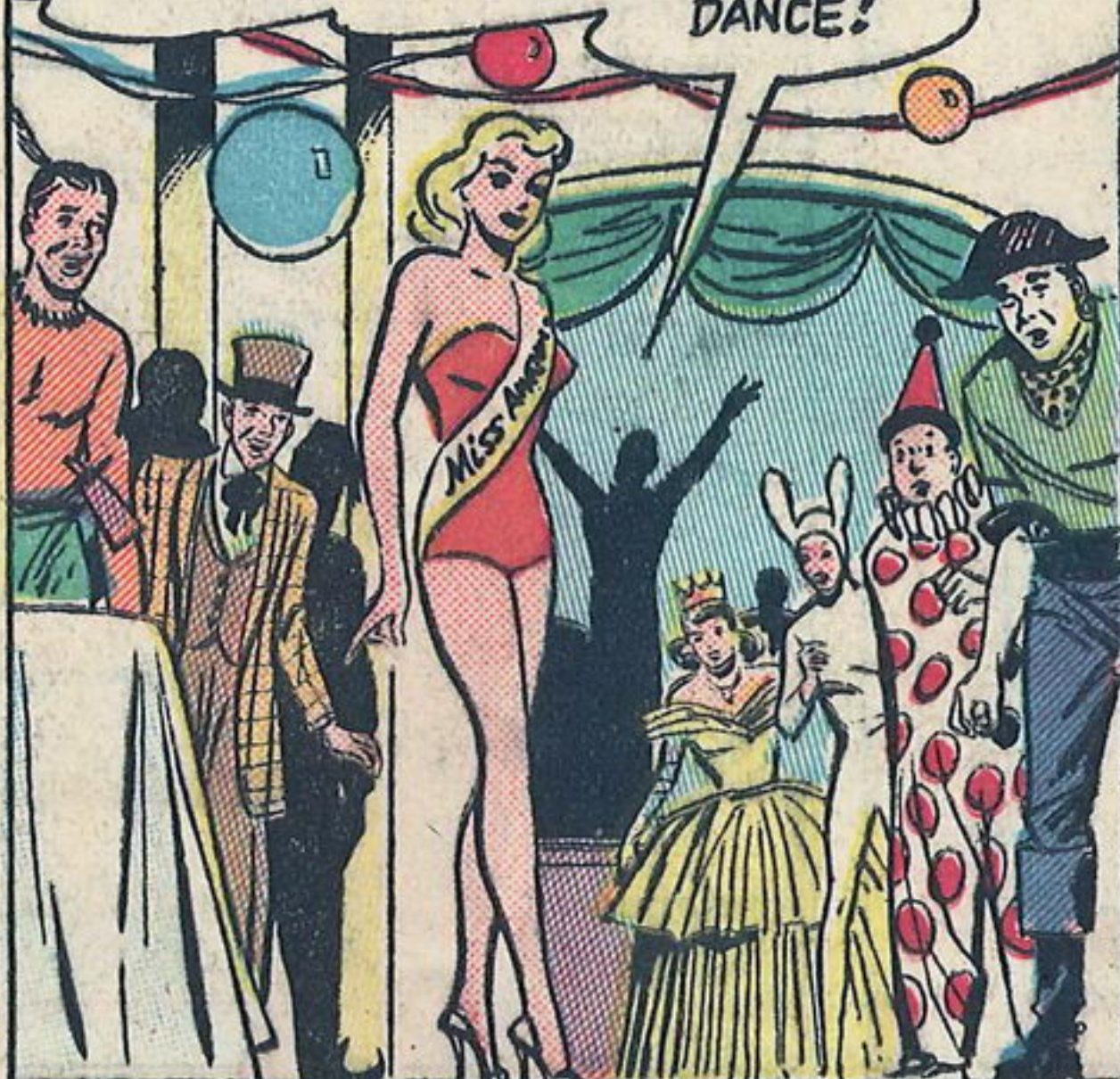
It was the night before docking-- the ship's Masquerade Ball-- and I was determined to THROW CAUTION TO THE WINDS!"

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, GLAMOROUS-- HOW DO I KNOW THAT I COULDN'T BE, TOO! I'LL FORGET THESE SCHOOLMARM GLASSES--AND GO AS MISS AMERICA!



"It called for MAKEUP-- for a bathing suit such as I'd never worn! It took DARING-- and what emerged was a dazzling stranger at whom I myself gasped! The others gasped too-- I was the center of all eyes--"

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE NEXT DANCE WILL BE A REVERSE DANCE! THE LADIES WILL ASK THE MEN TO DANCE!



"I looked about me-- THERE was a man I'd never seen before! Dark, dashing, handsome-- with such a face as I'd only seen in my dreams! Why not -- HIM?"

WOULD YOU CARE TO DANCE, MR. --?

BALDWIN-- CARL BALDWIN-- AND I'D LOVE TO DANCE --WITH YOU!



"Music, gaiety -- and with every glorious moment, I found myself more fascinated by his surging charm!"

TELL ME, JANICE, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL MY LIFE? WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE THE LAST NIGHT BEFORE WE MET?

THERE COULD BE OTHER NIGHTS -- COULDN'T THERE? SHALL WE -- TALK IT OVER ON DECK?



"Carl didn't tell me much about himself-- but it was as if we'd known each other for years!"

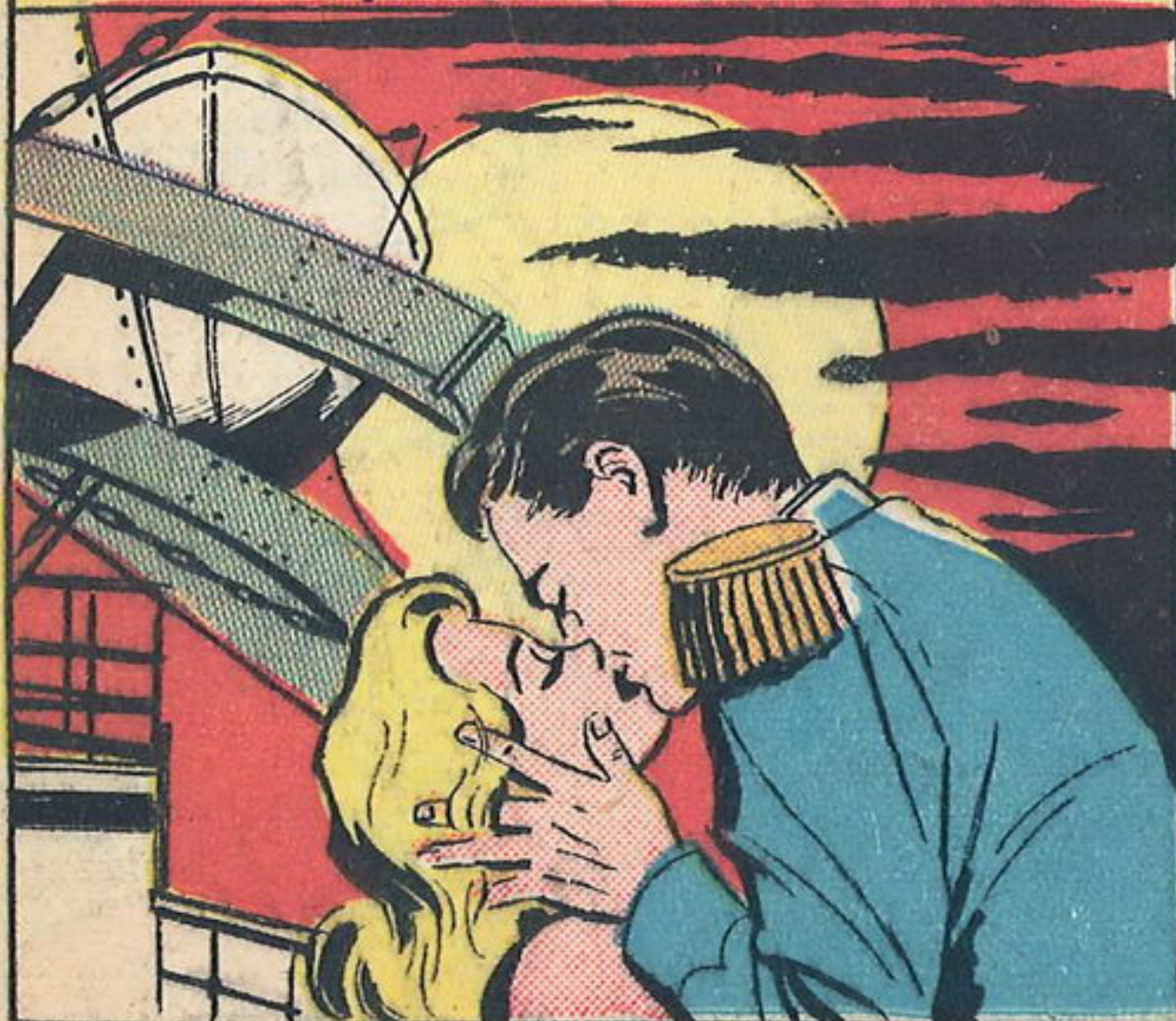
He was MORE than handsome --there was that air of glamorous mystery that drew me like a magnet!"

BUT, CARL, YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING!

DOES IT MATTER -- UNDER A MOON LIKE THAT? JANICE, DARLING-- LOOK AT ME!



"It happened then -- as if fate had willed it! We were in each other's arms -- and the magic of his kisses kindled me like fire and wine!"



"This was love--**LOVE**--and Carl thronged my dreams that night! I saw him as a famous author-- a scientist engaged in secret atomic research-- an international financier! But whatever he was, he was **MINE--MY ONE TRUE ROMANCE!**"



"Next morning -- the ship docked!"

I'LL **NEVER** LET YOU GET AWAY FROM ME, SWEETHEART! I'LL SHOW YOU THE MOST WONDERFUL SIGHTS IN ALL EUROPE --

I'LL LOVE EVERY MOMENT OF IT -- WITH **YOU!**



"Europe was a garden of enchantment --because we were together! Never had life been so sweet, nor love so alluring! Carl was still a man of mystery, never imparting the secret of his occupation -- but I found it intriguing! One day -- at the Luxembourg Museum --"

LIKE THIS PAINTING, JANICE?

LIKE IT? I **LOVE** IT!



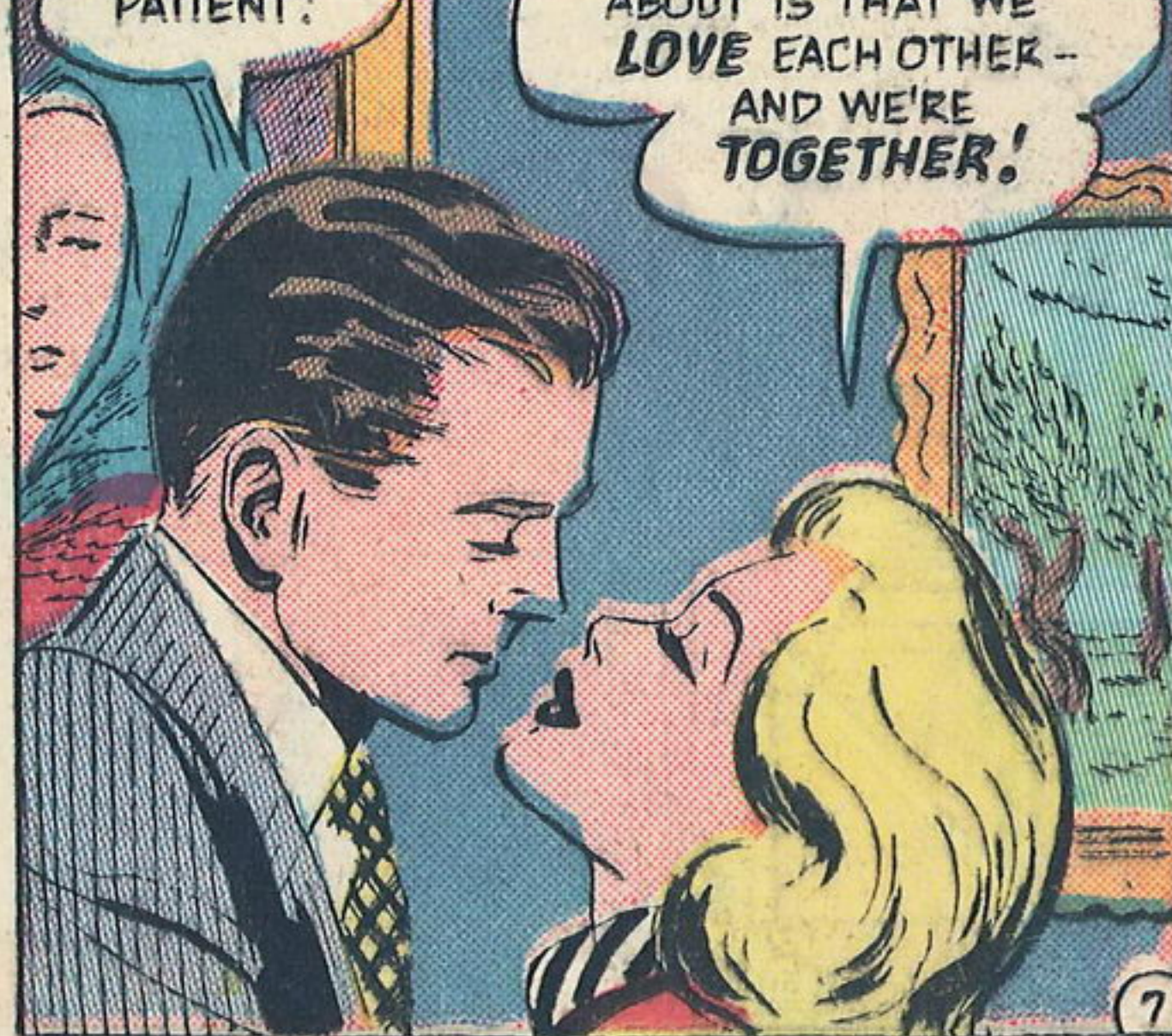
GODD! YOU'VE GOT AN EXCELLENT TASTE IN ART! AND IT SO HAPPENS THAT **I** HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN THIS PARTICULAR PAINTING!

WHY? ARE **YOU** AN ARTIST --OR DO YOU BUY PAINTINGS? PLEASE TELL ME!



YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH, HONEY! JUST BE PATIENT!

OH, I DON'T CARE IF I **NEVER** FIND OUT! ALL **I** CARE ABOUT IS THAT WE **LOVE** EACH OTHER -- AND WE'RE **TOGETHER!**



"It was the next day that Carl called unexpectedly at my hotel -- with a package --"

SWEETHEART, I WANT YOU TO KEEP THIS FOR ME FOR A FEW DAYS! I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT IT IS, BUT YOU MUST **PROMISE NOT TO OPEN IT!** UNDERSTAND? **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO OPEN THIS PACKAGE!**

OF COURSE, DEAR! BUT -- BUT CAN'T YOU TELL ME WHAT IT IS?

ER -- IT'S A **SURPRISE!** WHO KNOWS -- MAYBE IT'S A PRESENT FOR YOU TO CELEBRATE AN **IMPORTANT OCCASION -- FOR BOTH OF US!**

YOU MEAN --? **OH, DARLING!**

"That evening, in my eagerness and joy, I accidentally tripped over the package Carl had brought! There was a ripping sound -- and, frightened, I opened the package to see --"

OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE! IT'S THAT PICTURE WE ADMIRER AT THE LUXEMBOURG -- HE MUST HAVE WANTED TO SURPRISE ME WITH IT BECAUSE I LIKED IT SO! BUT I'VE **RUINED IT!**

"And then I saw a newspaper -- and it hit me with the impact of a thunderbolt!"

Famous Pastoral Painting Stolen From Luxembourg

"I must have been the happiest girl in the world! All I had ever dared to dream seemed about to reach golden fruition -- and life was a song of love!"

BUT THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! I'VE GOT THAT PAINTING! I -- I'M HOLDING IT FOR SOMEBODY!

REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE, MA'MSELLE! THE MATTER WILL BE INVESTIGATED!

"Within an hour..."

IT IS MY PAINTING -- AND IT'S RUINED!

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST, MA'MSELLE!

WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT? IT'S ALL UTTERLY FANTASTIC! I'M HOLDING THIS PAINTING FOR CARL BALDWIN AT THE PRESIDENT HOTEL -- HE'LL TELL YOU!

"But it didn't happen that way! Instead..."

WE HAVE INVESTIGATED--
ZEY HAVE NEVER HEARD
OF A **CARL BALDWIN**
AT ZE HOTEL PRESIDENT!
WE ARE HOLDING **YOU**
ON SUSPICION!

I DON'T CARE
WHETHER SHE STOLE
IT OR NOT! MY PAINTING
IS **RUINED!** IF I DO
NOT RECEIVE PAYMENT,
I SHALL PREFER CHARGES
-- **AGAINST THIS
WOMAN!**

"Suddenly,
my life had
become a
horrible
nightmare!
Carl had
deceived me!
The man to
whom I'd
given my love--
A THIEF!
He'd **USED**
me to
hide a stolen
painting-- and
now had fled,
leaving me
to a
shameful
fate!"

I --I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO
PAY FOR THE PAINTING! I GUESS
**THERE'S NOTHING-- THAT
CAN SAVE ME NOW --**

"But -- early next morning --
like heaven-sent manna ---"

MA'MSELLE -- YOU ARE
FREE! ZE ARTIST, HE
HAS BEEN PAID FOR
HIS PAINTING -- HE
HAS DROPPED ALL
CHARGES!

BUT--BUT
WHO **PAID**
THE MONEY
FOR ME?
WAS IT --
CARL?

NO! ZE MONEY WAS CABLED
FROM AMERICA--**ANONYMOUSLY!**
WHOEVER SENT IT SAID HE'D READ
ABOUT YOUR TROUBLE
IN THE NEWSPAPERS,
AND WAS
FORWARDING
\$2,465!

\$2,465!--
COULD IT BE?
OF COURSE -- PETER!
HIS LIFE SAVINGS --
EVERYTHING HE
HAD--AND HE
GAVE IT--FOR
ME!

"I had only one goal now --
A TRANSATLANTIC PLANE!"

OH, PETER, **PETER!** I'M COMING
TO YOU, DARLING! -- OH, WHY DID
I HAVE TO MAKE A FOOL OF
MYSELF, SUFFER THESE
TORTURES -- TO REALIZE
THAT **YOU** ARE MY ONE
AND ONLY TRUE LOVE?

"It had started out to be just a
routine school day when --"

PETER! OH,
PETER! CAN
YOU EVER
FORGIVE
ME?

JANICE! FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN MY LIFE -- I'M
GOING TO FORGET
MYSELF IN A
SCHOOLROOM!

DARLING --

"Yes, teachers are supposed to know all the
answers -- and this time was no exception! For I'd
learned love's lesson -- and true love was mine for all time!"

Sir GALAHAD

IT WAS a rainy, foggy afternoon... which suited Perry's mood exactly. He couldn't see too clearly ahead of him, and that was all right too! For Perry was brooding and the weather matched his spirits.

For one whole month, he had been trying to get up enough nerve to ask Meg Potter for a date. But nerve was something Perry had very little of...that kind, anyhow. He was shy with girls. No use beating about the bush. He was scared stiff at the thought of breaking the ice.

Of course, he *had* been trying. Perry had been using what he termed the "Sir Galahad Approach". The idea was to be so courtly and polite that the girl couldn't help noticing you. It had only one real flaw. Meg Potter hadn't noticed him.

He had opened doors for her... once at the movies, once at the grocery store and once at the bazaar. She had merely murmured "Thank you" and swept right by. He had helped her off a bus one afternoon. Actually, he had waited at the bus stop and then taken her hand to help her down. She had murmured "Thank you" and gone about her business. Once he had had the good luck to come across her right outside the library at a moment when she had scattered an armful of books on the street. With all the courtliness he could summon, Perry had picked them up and offered to carry them for her. Again, all he got was the same polite "Thank you".

Perry knew that it was his fault. After all, it is up to the fellow to get things going. Even if the girl was eager for a date, she usually waited. But Perry knew it was no use for Meg to wait. He was too bashful!

At this point, Perry walked smack into someone who was coming the other way, someone much smaller and and slighter than himself. To his horror, Perry saw the unknown slip on the pavement and fall, smack into a sizeable rain puddle.

"Gosh, I'm *terribly* sorry!" he said as he stooped to help his victim to her feet. "I'm...I'm..." Perry's horror expanded to incredible proportions as he realized that his victim, the girl he had just sent sprawling into a puddle, was the girl of his heart. In one black moment of despair, Perry realized that all was lost.

With the desperation of the loser, Perry found his tongue. Angrily, he berated Meg, who stared at him wide-eyed. "All right," he snapped, "so maybe I *am* clumsy! So I *did* knock you off your feet! Well, that doesn't change things at all, for me. I...I like you, Meg. I've been wanting to talk to you for the longest time, ask you for a date, go walking with you, take you to the movies. But you wouldn't even look at me before... and I guess you'll never look at me now. Good-night! And...I'm sorry I bumped into you!"

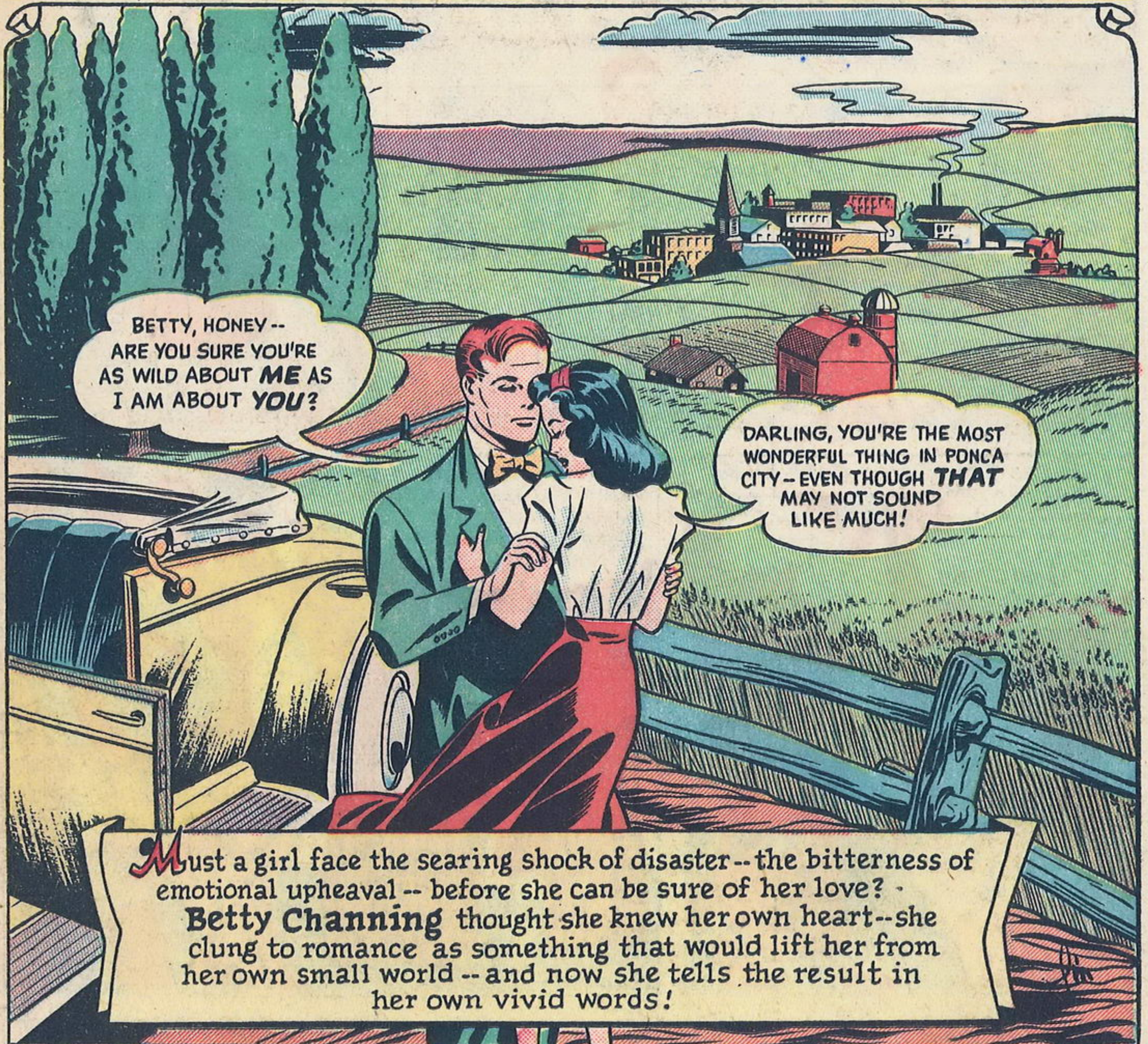
"Well!" Meg's voice was a combination of surprise and delight. "I never even thought you *noticed* me, Perry! I thought you were the strong silent type. Gosh! I'll be glad to!"

"You mean...?" Perry couldn't find the words.

"I sure do," answered Meg, linking her arm in his. "And let's start with some hot chocolate, please. I'm soaking wet!"

Sir Galahad had found his lady at last!

Woored by a Wanderer



BETTY, HONEY --
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE
AS WILD ABOUT **ME** AS
I AM ABOUT **YOU**?

DARLING, YOU'RE THE MOST
WONDERFUL THING IN PONCA
CITY -- EVEN THOUGH **THAT**
MAY NOT SOUND
LIKE MUCH!

Must a girl face the searing shock of disaster -- the bitterness of emotional upheaval -- before she can be sure of her love? **Betty Channing** thought she knew her own heart -- she clung to romance as something that would lift her from her own small world -- and now she tells the result in her own vivid words!

GOSH -- CAN'T YOU GET OVER THIS
HIGH-HAT IDEA THAT THERE'S SOME-
THING **WRONG** WITH PONCA CITY? IT'S
A GROWING BUSINESS CENTER -- AND
A LIVE-WIRE LIKE **ME** WON'T HAVE
TO FARM WHEAT, LIKE MY FATHER
AND GRANDFATHER! PONCA CITY'S
OKAY FOR **MY** MONEY -- AND I
EXPECT TO MAKE **PLENTY**!

OH, ROY --
IS THAT
ALL WE'VE
GOT TO LOOK
FORWARD
TO -- GOOD
BUSINESS
PROSPECTS?

THAT'S JUST WHAT'S WRONG
WITH THIS TOWN -- PEOPLE ARE
SO INTERESTED IN MAKING
MONEY THAT THEY'RE JUST
HALF ALIVE! I WANT TO FEEL
I'M KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH
THE **REST** OF THE WORLD --
INSTEAD OF SPENDING MY
WHOLE LIFE GABBING ABOUT
WHEAT -- AND ACREAGE --
AND CYCLONES!

I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHY I'M
THE ONLY FELLOW IN TOWN WHO
EVER GOT TO FIRST BASE WITH
YOU! THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN
SCARED OFF BY YOUR STUCK-UP
ATTITUDE -- BUT
I'M WILLING TO
WAIT UNTIL
YOU GROW
OUT OF IT,
BABY!

STUCK UP?
ARE YOU TRYING
TO SAY YOU'VE BEEN
DOING ME A **FAVOR**
-- DATING ME THESE
PAST FIVE
MONTHS?



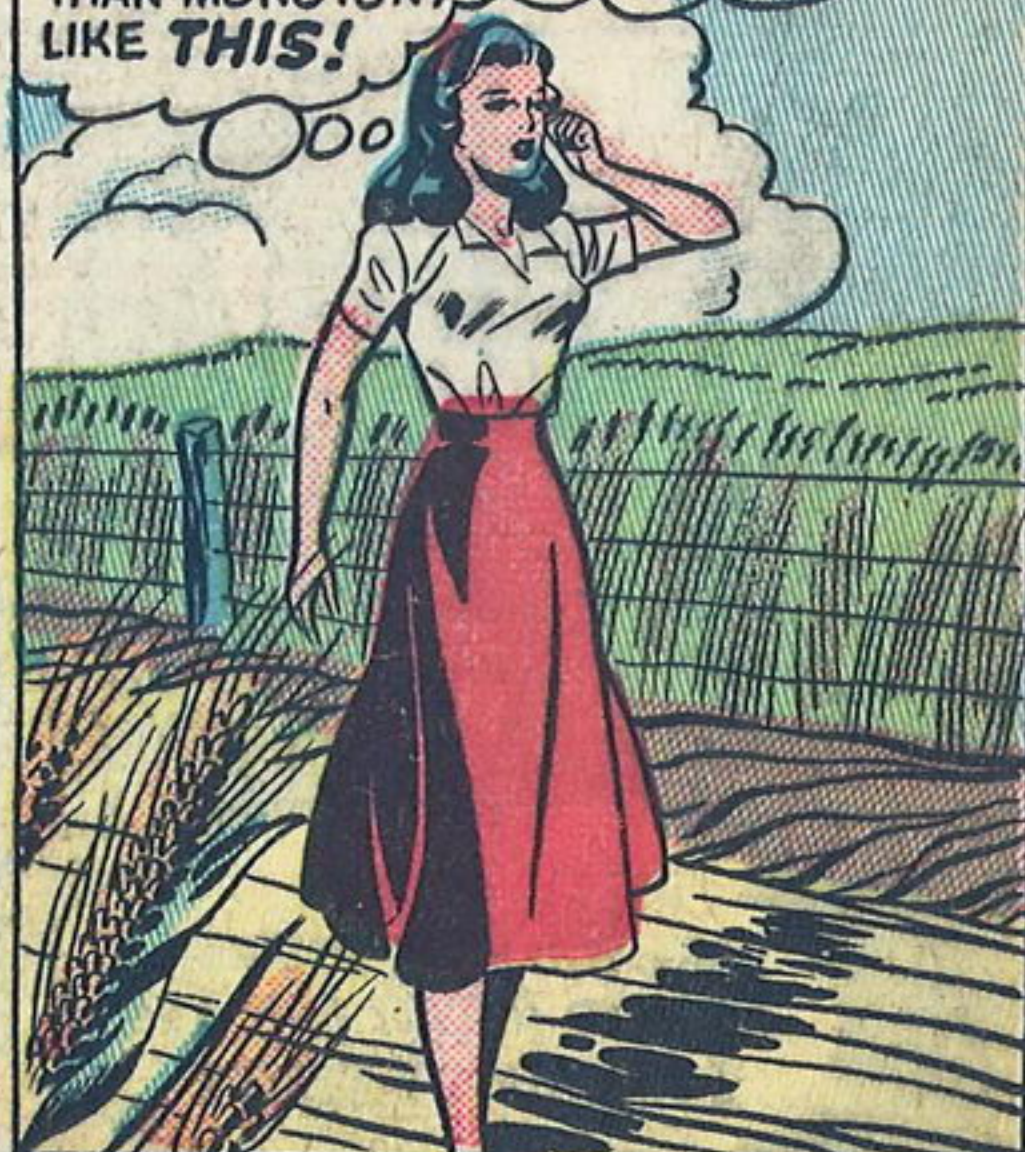
"That's the way it started -- just an ordinary falling out -- but I didn't realize what I was falling INTO!"

IF I DO manage to outgrow anything, it'll be putting up with this half-baked town -- and people like YOU! You can figure out a few business deals while you're driving back -- because I'm WALKING!

OKAY, SWEETHEART -- BUT BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T GET LOST! YOU'VE BEEN HEADED IN A LOT OF WRONG DIRECTIONS LATELY!



I DON'T CARE IF I NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN! THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T THINK PONCA CITY'S THE HUB OF THE UNIVERSE -- SOMEONE WHO REALIZES THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN MONOTONY LIKE THIS!

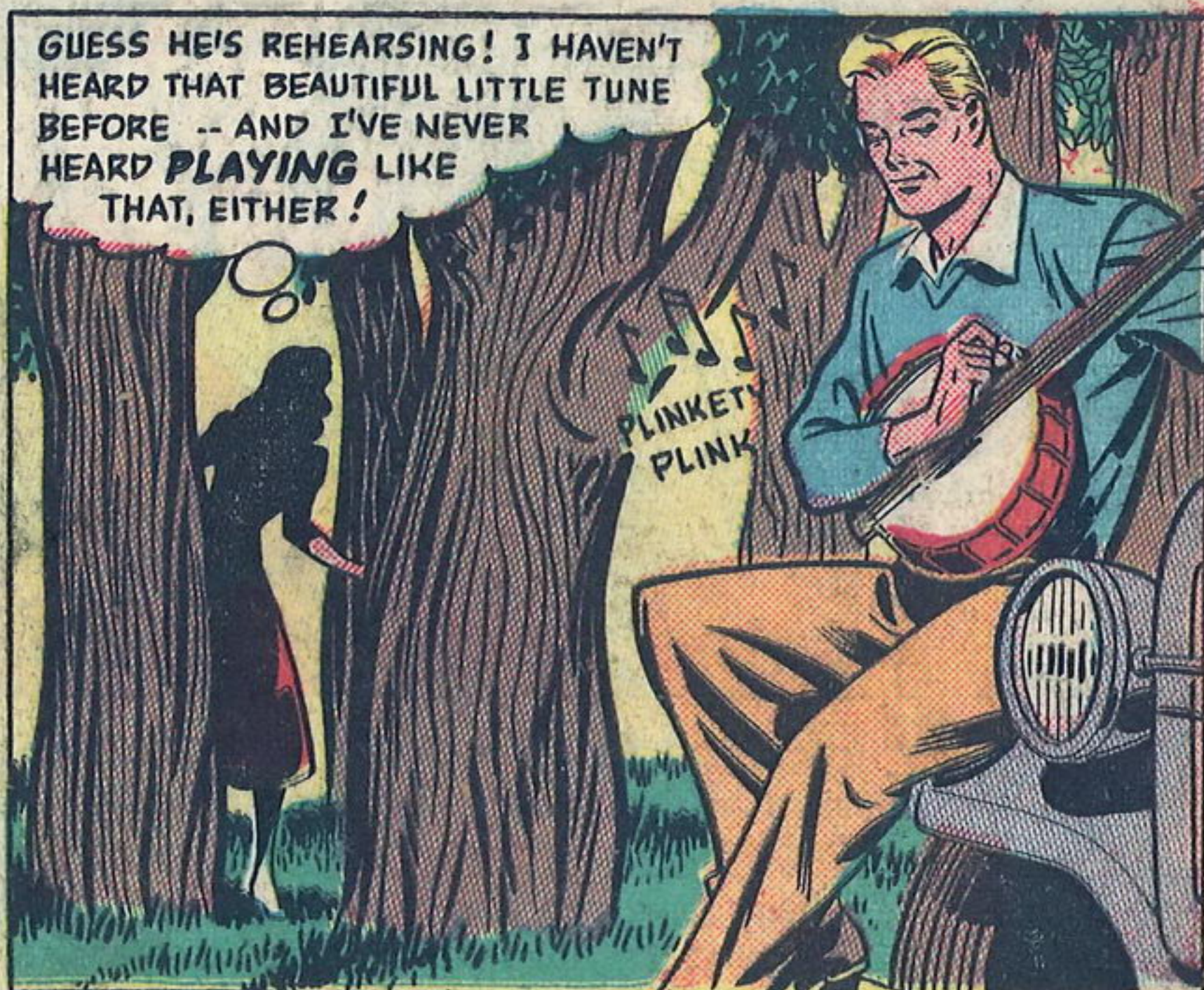


"Then -- as I reached a thick clump of poplars --"

BANJO MUSIC! IT COULD BE A CAR RADIO -- BUT I WONDER!



GUESS HE'S REHEARSING! I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT BEAUTIFUL LITTLE TUNE BEFORE -- AND I'VE NEVER HEARD PLAYING LIKE THAT, EITHER!



"Suddenly he looked up -- and suddenly I had something to remember forever -- this first moment our eyes met!"

WELL, WELL -- THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I DON'T MIND HAVING AN AUDIENCE OF ONE!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT -- BUT I JUST HAD TO MAKE SURE I WASN'T DREAMING! ARE YOU A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN?



IF YOU MEAN DO I MAKE MONEY AT IT -- NO! I JUST WANDER AROUND, TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING -- AND COLLECTING FOLK SONGS WHENEVER I GET A CHANCE!



"A WANDERER! There was something about him that looked the part -- a restless vitality --"

IT MUST BE A WONDERFUL LIFE! MY NAME'S BETTY CHANNING! I HOPE YOU'LL BE AROUND PONCA CITY FOR A WHILE -- YOU CAN DO MORE WITH THOSE FOUR BANJO STRINGS THAN ALL THE WOULD-BE MUSICIANS IN TOWN!

MY NAME'S CAL TURNER -- AND THIS IS PLINKY -- THE BEST BANJO EVER MADE! GO AHEAD AND TRY IT -- IT'S NOT HARD TO PICK OUT A TUNE!

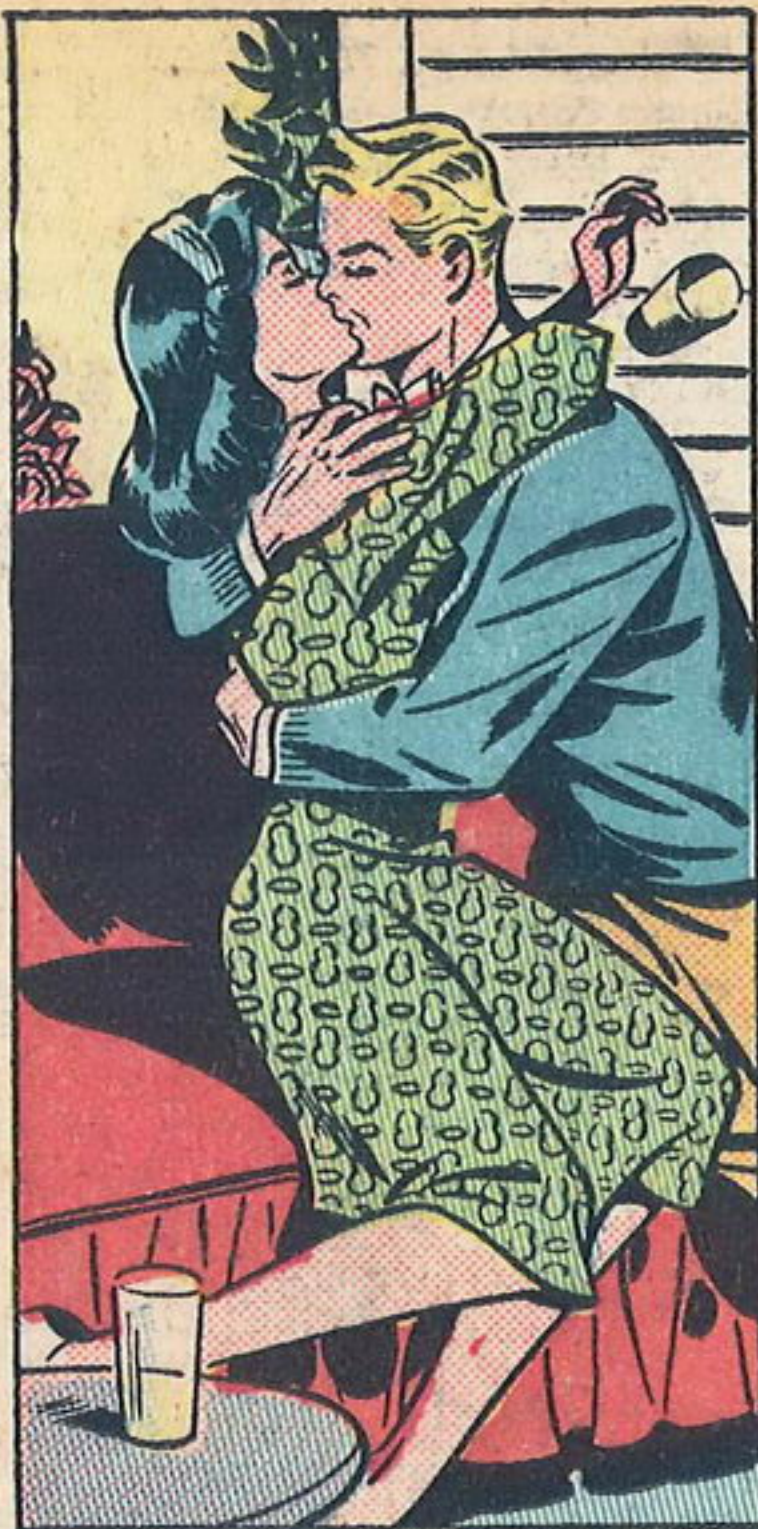






GOOD HEAVENS -- I FORGOT THE SUGAR! MY MOUTH'S ALL PUCKERED!

MINE, TOO -- AND BABY, I'M NO ONE TO WASTE A GOOD THING!



"During the next two weeks, I forgot almost entirely about Roy and his business deals -- because I was seeing Cal every afternoon!"

WISH I WASN'T TIED UP EVENINGS, HONEY -- BUT IT TAKES MONEY TO GO SONG-HUNTING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, AND I CAN'T BE TOO CHOOSY ABOUT HOW I EARN IT! THE **IMPORTANT** THING IS THAT I'M FINDING FOLK TUNES **MILLIONS** OF PEOPLE WILL WANT TO HEAR SOME DAY!

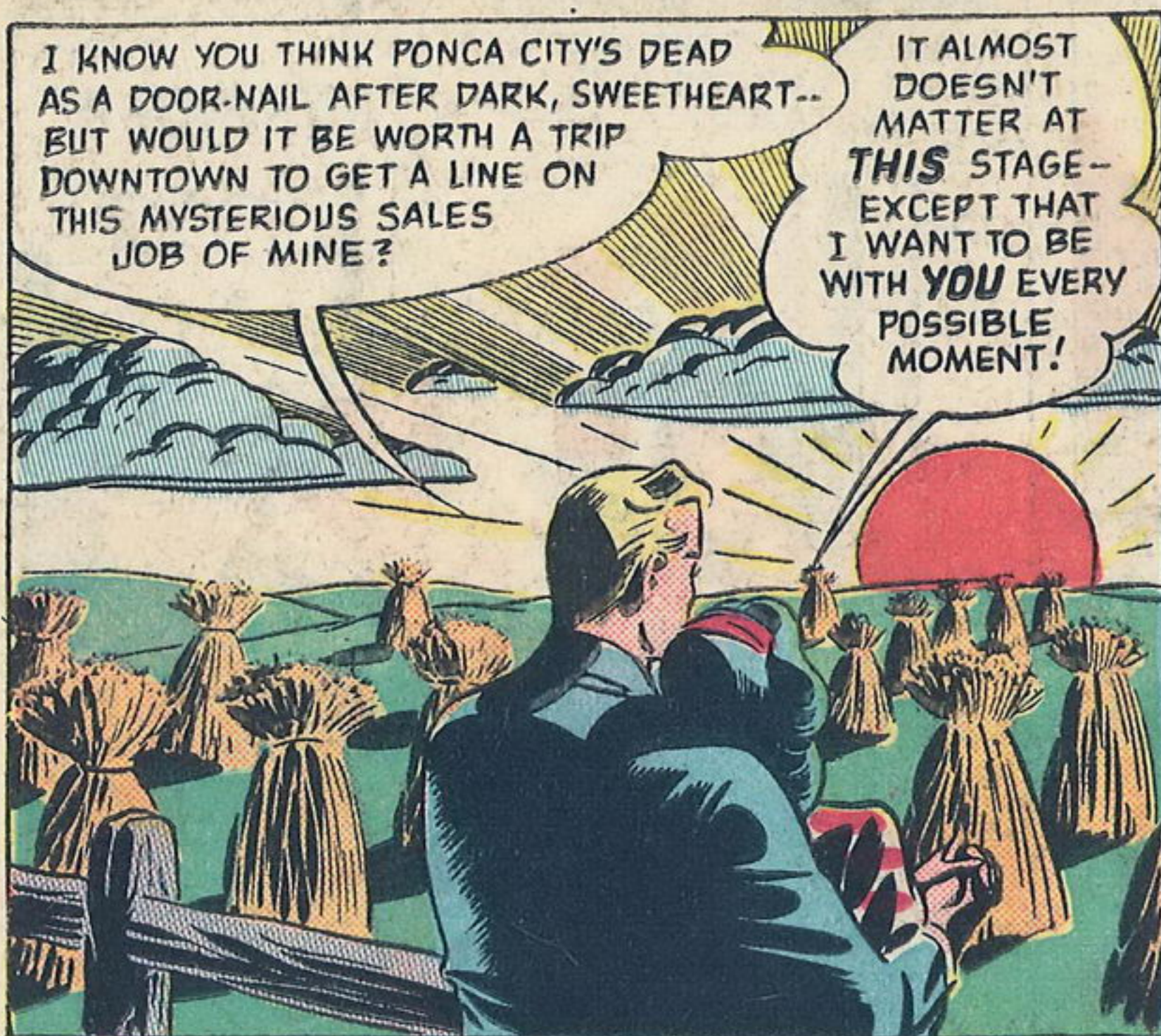
DARLING, I'M SURE OF **THAT**, BUT RIGHT NOW THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO HEAR! IT ISN'T THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU -- BUT THIS **JOB** OF YOURS HAS BEEN PRETTY MUCH ON MY MIND!



I'LL SWAP YOU FOR SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN ON MY MIND, BETTY! THERE'S NO TELLING WHETHER ANY OF MY PROJECTS WILL EVER PAN OUT -- BUT IF IT HAPPENS... WILL YOU THINK ABOUT **MARRYING ME?**

OH, CAL... AS IF I COULD THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE -- **NOW!**

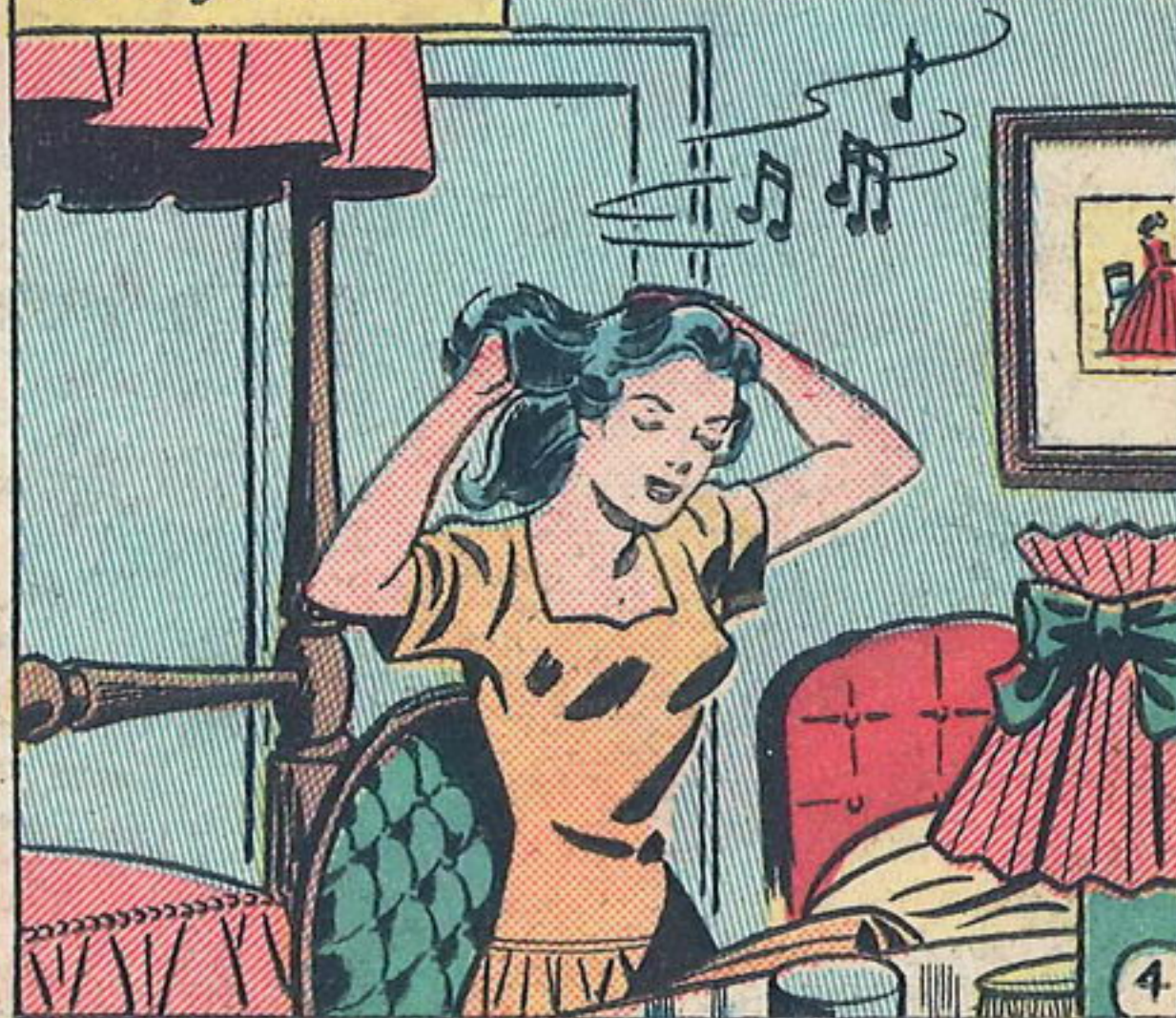
"This was the moment that left its imprint on my heart forever -- the August sun flooding the golden sheaves -- the shimmering heat waves dancing before my half-closed eyes!"



I KNOW YOU THINK PONCA CITY'S DEAD AS A DOOR-NAIL AFTER DARK, SWEETHEART -- BUT WOULD IT BE WORTH A TRIP DOWNTOWN TO GET A LINE ON THIS MYSTERIOUS SALES JOB OF MINE?

IT ALMOST DOESN'T MATTER AT **THIS** STAGE -- EXCEPT THAT I WANT TO BE WITH **YOU** EVERY POSSIBLE MOMENT!

"Getting ready to meet Cal the following night -- I happily hummed the little tune I'd first heard that afternoon in the poplar grove! Now it was as much mine as Cal's -- **OUR** song -- because it brought us together!"



"Then--as suddenly as if an invisible hand had been clamped over my mouth..."

HEY, THERE! YOU HOME, BETTY?

ROY! BUT HEAVENS, IT CAN'T BE-- AFTER ALL THESE WEEKS!

DIDN'T MEAN TO DROP IN ON YOU UNEXPECTEDLY, SUGAR -- BUT I FIGURED YOU'D HAD PLENTY OF TIME ON YOUR HANDS LATELY! THINK YOU'VE COOLED OFF BY NOW?

COOLED OFF! YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN-- AND MEAN IT!

I'D LIKE TO STAY AND HEAR ABOUT THE BIG DEALS YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING YOUR TIME ON LATELY--- BUT I'VE GOT A DATE DOWNTOWN!

NICE ACT, BABY, BUT HOW COME HE ISN'T CALLING FOR YOU? I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D WANT A LIFT-- IT MIGHT PROVE YOU'RE HANDING ME A LINE!

"Boiling over Roy's conceited attitude, I accepted the dare! He needed a jolt-- and I was going to see to it that he got one!"

HAVE YOU GOTTEN AROUND TO TELLING YOUR HEAVY DATE HOW MUCH YOU HATE PONCA CITY--AND WHEAT, AND BUSINESS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE?

I HAVEN'T HAD TO, SMART ALECK -- BECAUSE THINGS LIKE THAT DON'T MEAN ANY MORE TO CAL THAN THEY DO TO ME! HE HAPPENS TO BE INTERESTED IN MUSIC--AND I'M INTERESTED IN HIM!

"I heard banjo music as we reached downtown. Then--as Roy swung around a corner..."

CAL! OHH--NO!

"Again I heard the tune I'd treasured as a love song-- THIS time with words that turned it into a mockery!"

CHEER UP IF LUMBAGO AILS YOU NIRIPSA NEVER FAILS YOU-- IT HELPS TO GET YOU BETTER EVERY TIME!

OH, BROTHER -- A ONE-MAN MEDICINE SHOW! NO WONDER YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO MEET HIM!

HOW COULD HE HAVE DONE THIS TO ME -- HOW?

IF YOU NEED A HEADACHE FIXER, TRY OUR GUARANTEED ELIXIR! NIRIPSA! AND A BOTTLE'S JUST A DIME!



I'LL TAKE A COUPLE O' BOTTLES, YOUNG FELLER!

PROBABLY JUST A SHILL -- A DECOY PLANTED IN THE CROWD TO WHIP UP SALES! THESE FAKERS ALWAYS USE THEM!



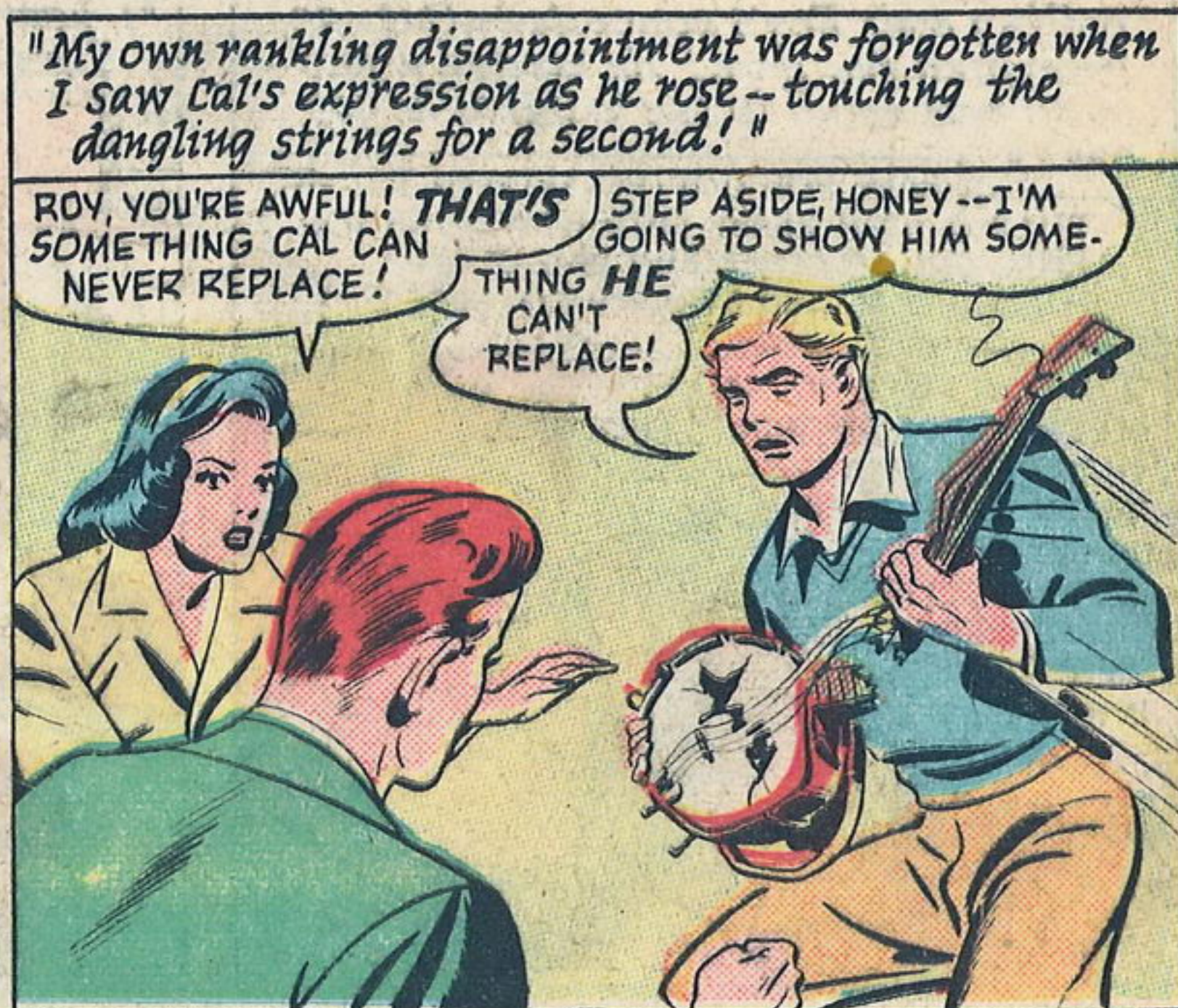
LOOK, HONEY -- MAYBE YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY I MAKE A LIVING! WELL, I DON'T LIKE THIS CIGAR-STORE COMEDIAN, EITHER -- SO I GUESS **THAT** MAKES US EVEN!

YOU CAN DEAL ME IN TOO, BUD -- BECAUSE **I** DON'T LIKE YOU --



-- NOHOW!

SOCK!

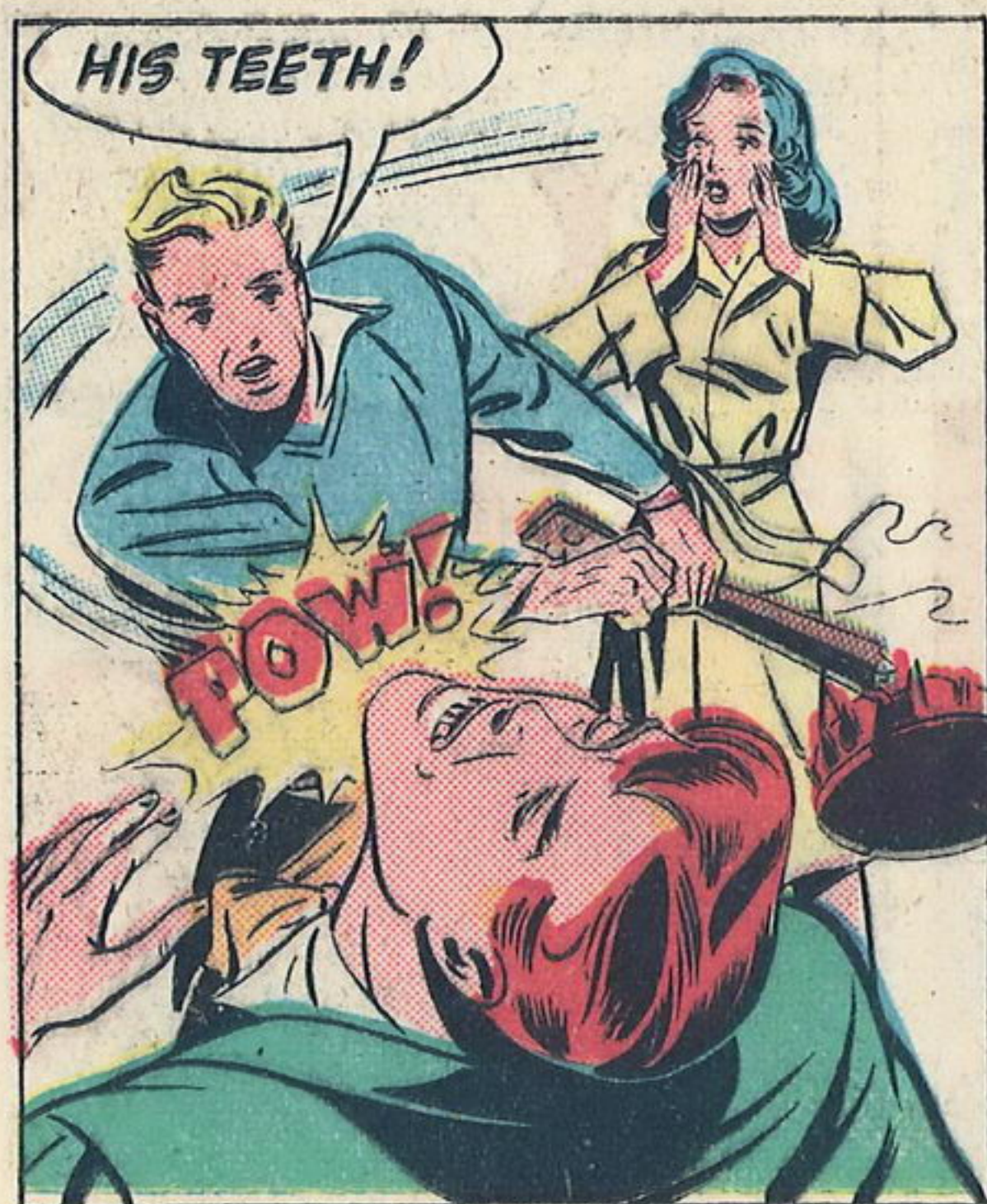


"My own rankling disappointment was forgotten when I saw Cal's expression as he rose -- touching the dangling strings for a second!"

ROY, YOU'RE AWFUL! **THAT'S** SOMETHING CAL CAN NEVER REPLACE!

STEP ASIDE, HONEY -- I'M GOING TO SHOW HIM SOME-

THING **HE** CAN'T REPLACE!



HIS TEETH!

POW!



JUST WAIT! THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF DEALING WITH **YOU** -- YOU CHEAP SWINDLER!

NOW, SUGAR -- I THINK **WE'VE** GOT A FEW THINGS TO STRAIGHTEN OUT!



I COULD UNDERSTAND YOUR REACTION IF YOU'D SHOWN UP ALONE -- BUT BRINGING A CHARACTER LIKE **THAT** MAKES ME

PRETTY CERTAIN YOU CAME STRICTLY FOR LAUGHS!

THAT'S

WHAT A FLY-BY-NIGHT SIDEWALK PERFORMER WANTS, ISN'T IT -- **LAUGHS?** I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'VE MANAGED TO SHOW YOUR FACE IN TOWN THIS LONG, PEDDLING THAT FAKE CURE-ALL -- BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN!



IS THAT THE FELLOW YOU WANT ARRESTED?

RIGHT! MAYBE HE WON'T THINK WE'RE SUCH HICKS AFTER HE'S CHARGED WITH FRAUD AND THE ILLEGAL SALE OF MEDICINE!



CAN'T DO IT, ROY-- NOT UNLESS WE ARREST EVERY DRUGGIST IN TOWN!

HUH?

IF YOU'D BOTHERED TO READ THE LABEL BEFORE TRYING **THIS** WAY OF GETTING EVEN, BUD-- YOU'D HAVE SEEN IT WOULDN'T WORK!



NIRIPSA IS JUST "ASPIRIN" SPELLED BACKWARDS-- AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS-- A SOLUTION OF ACETYL SALICYLIC ACID! ANY HALFWIT WOULD REALIZE THAT A SWINDLER WOULDN'T BE CONTENT WITH **DIMES**-- HE'D BE CLIPPING HIS VICTIMS FOR A COUPLE OF BUCKS A BOTTLE! NOW THAT WE'VE CHECKED **THAT** OFF-- GOT ANYTHING **ELSE** YOU WANT TO MAKE SOME-THING OF?



DARLING, I'M SORRY-- I HONESTLY DIDN'T MEAN TO HAVE THIS HAPPEN! IT'S JUST THAT FOR A MOMENT OR TWO, I WAS A BIT LET DOWN TO FIND YOU WERE--

A FLY-BY-NIGHT SIDEWALK PERFORMER-- ISN'T **THAT** WHAT YOU SAID?



WELL, SWEETHEART-- THE PERFORMANCE IS OVER AS FAR AS **YOU'RE** CONCERNED! PONCA CITY AND A CORN-FED BOY FRIEND ARE JUST ABOUT YOUR SPEED-- AND **MY** SPEED'S GOING TO BE ABOUT SEVENTY MILES AN HOUR ON THE WAY OUT!

"I turned down the shadowed street knowing he was gone--taking with him a love that had ripened like summer wheat--and withered before the harvest!"



"What use was there to count the days that passed--days that lengthened into months in a calendar of longing? Somewhere on a lonely back road in the Ozarks or the Great Smokies was the wanderer I'd never see again--not knowing that my heart traveled with him in the night--over endless miles and endless hours!"



"Half-heartedly -- but knowing I'd have to forget Cal -- I began seeing Roy again!"

DO WE **HAVE** TO GO TO A PARTY, ROY? HONESTLY -- I'M NOT IN THE MOOD!

YOU **WILL** BE, SUGAR! JAKE FLETCHER'S GOING TO BE THERE -- AND WAIT'LL YOU HEAR WHAT THAT BOY CAN GET OUT OF A FIDDLE!

"Roy was right! For the first time in months, I was able to forget myself in an hour of square dancing!"

THAT'S ALL, PALS -- GO STAGGER TO YOUR CHAIRS!

WHEEEE!

HEY, JAKE -- HOW ABOUT ONE OF THOSE NEW FOLK TUNES?

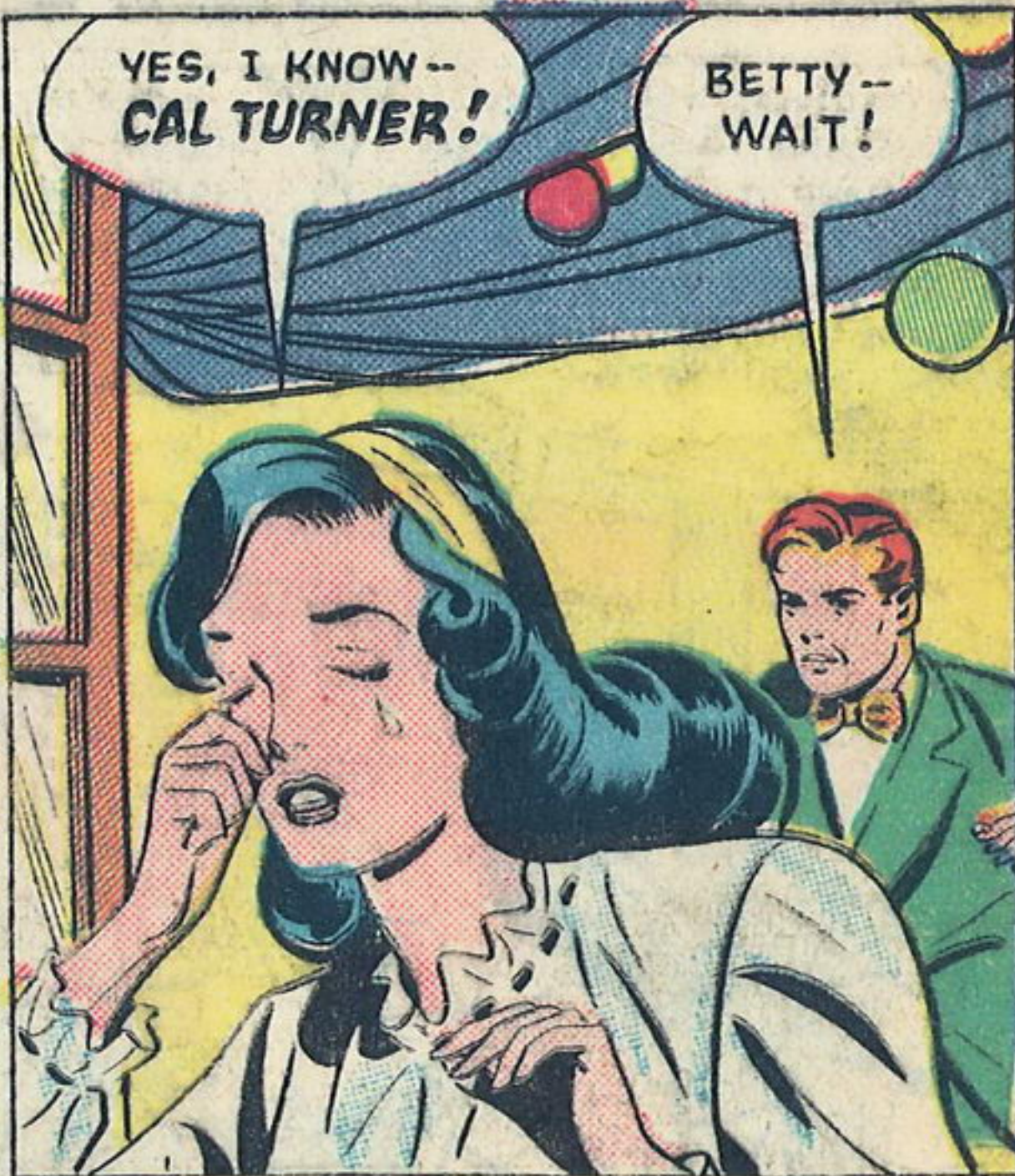
"My heart stopped beating all through the first bar -- trapped by a memory that made every note echo the sound of his name!"

CAL -- CAL! THAT'S **HIS** SONG!



JAKE, WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT? SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE?

WHY, GOSH -- **EVERYONE'S** HUMMING THIS TUNE! YOU CAN GET IT IN A RECORD ALBUM THAT'S JUST BEEN RELEASED -- BANJO SOLOS BY --



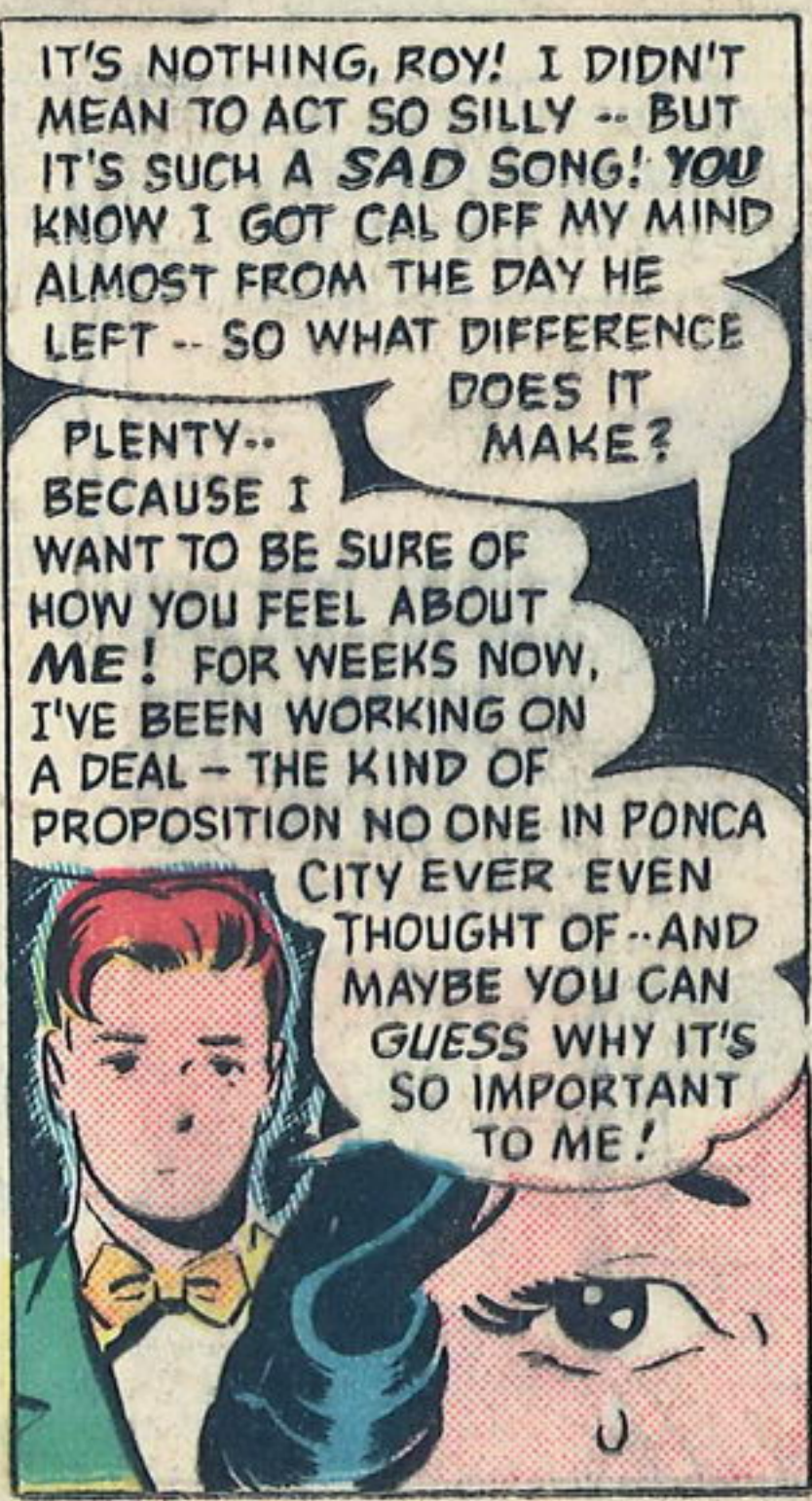
YES, I KNOW -- **CAL TURNER!**

BETTY -- WAIT!



HONEY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT ONE OF TURNER'S SONGS! -- I THOUGHT WE'D **BOTH** FORGOTTEN HIM! IT'S BEEN NEARLY A YEAR...

ELEVEN MONTHS! ELEVEN MONTHS AND FOURTEEN DAYS...



IT'S NOTHING, ROY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO ACT SO SILLY -- BUT IT'S SUCH A **SAD** SONG! YOU KNOW I GOT CAL OFF MY MIND ALMOST FROM THE DAY HE LEFT -- SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

PLENTY -- BECAUSE I WANT TO BE SURE OF HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT **ME!** FOR WEEKS NOW, I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A DEAL -- THE KIND OF PROPOSITION NO ONE IN PONCA CITY EVER EVEN THOUGHT OF -- AND MAYBE YOU CAN GUESS WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO ME!



"In the next breathless moment, I realized I'd reached a turning point -- that the fading memory of music and a beloved face belonged in the past -- that the old dreams and old yearning couldn't be taken with me into the future!"

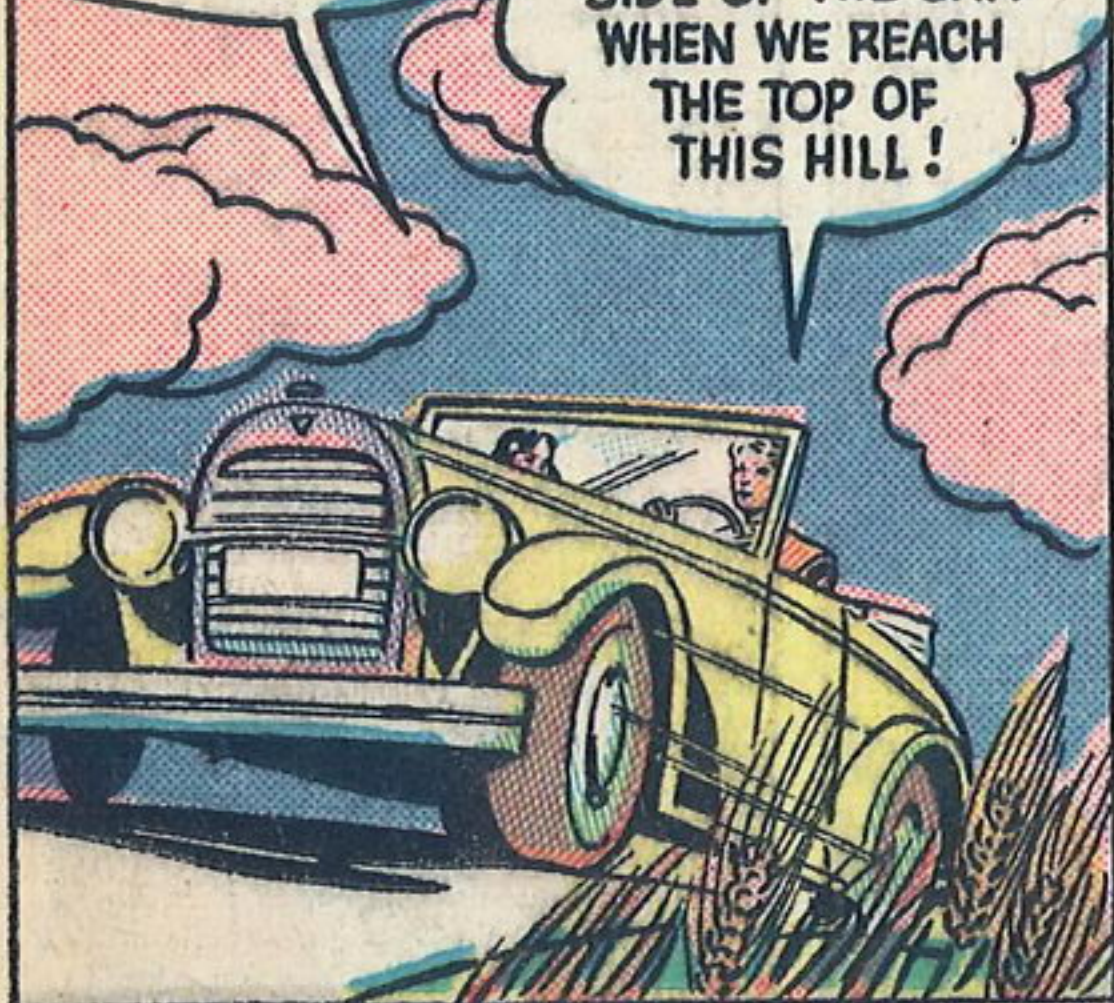
BABY, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

YES... **YES, DARLING!**

"Several days after our engagement was announced..."

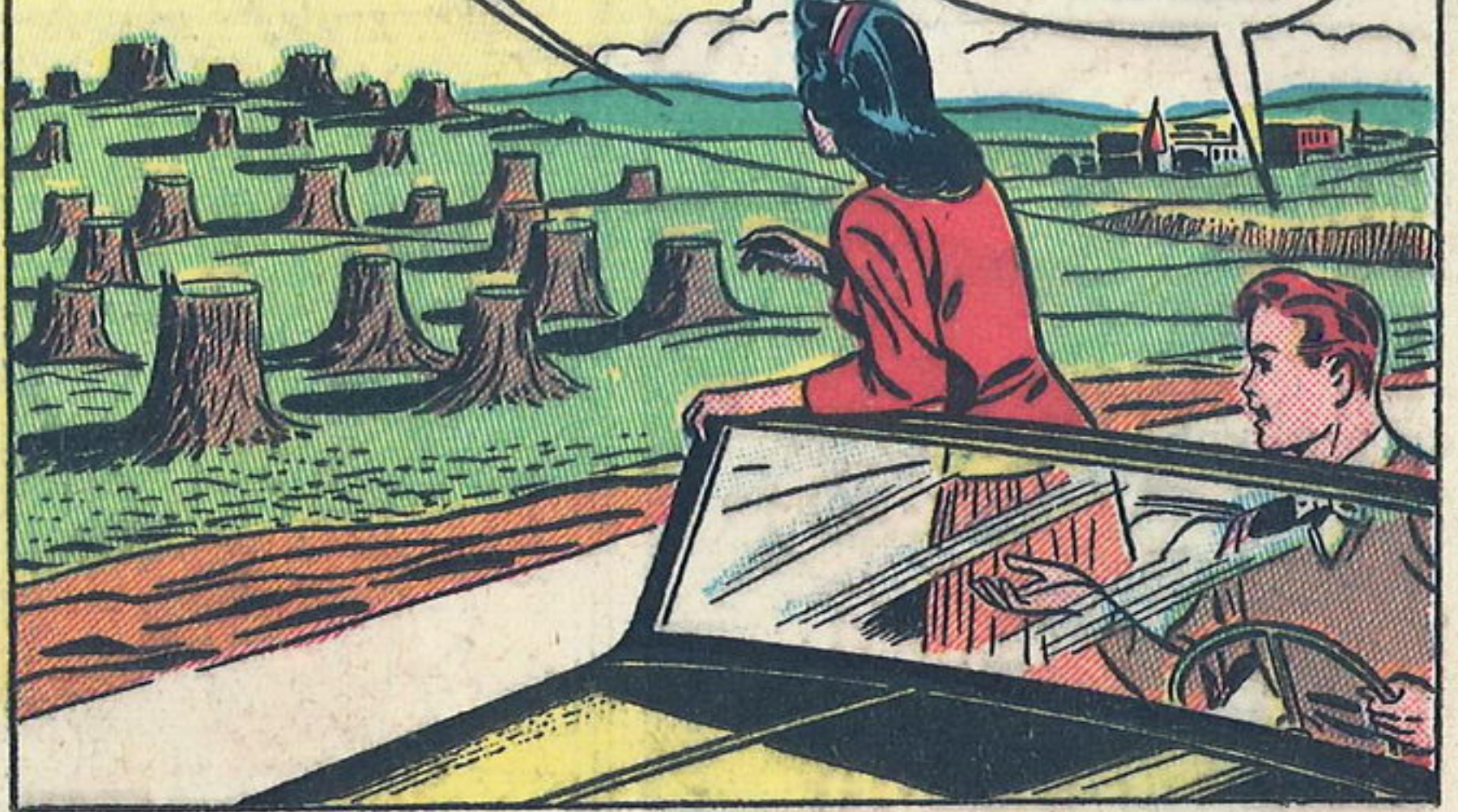
PLEASE, ROY-- TELL ME WHAT'S BEHIND THIS DEAL YOU'VE JUST SWUNG!

I SAID YOU'LL KNOW IN A MINUTE! JUST LOOK OUT OF YOUR SIDE OF THE CAR WHEN WE REACH THE TOP OF THIS HILL!



THE POPLAR GROVE! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT HUNDREDS OF STUMPS!

YEP! IT TOOK ME TO REALIZE THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF BOARD FEET OF LUMBER DOWN THERE-- WAITING TO BE CUT! I PAID OLD STEVE FRISBY TWO THOUSAND FOR STUMPAGE-- AND MADE NEARLY FOUR TIMES THAT MUCH ON THE LUMBER!



YOU--YOU HAD ALL THOSE WONDERFUL OLD TREES CUT DOWN -- JUST TO RAISE THE MONEY WE'RE GOING TO MARRY ON?

WHAT'S SO TERRIBLE ABOUT THAT, HONEY? WHY GET SENTIMENTAL ABOUT A BUNCH OF TREES--WHEN THEY MEAN MONEY?



MONEY-- THAT'S ALL YOU THINK OF! IT DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU THAT THOSE TREES GAVE THIS FLAT, DREARY COUNTRYSIDE A TOUCH OF BEAUTY -- THAT FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS, THEY'VE BEEN A WINDBREAK SHELTERING PONCA CITY FROM STORMS!

DON'T LEAVE OUT THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON OF ALL-- THAT THAT'S JUST WHERE YOU MET CAL TURNER-- DOWN THERE!



MAYBE IT'S A GOOD THING YOU BROUGHT HIM UP, YOU COLD-BLOODED VANDAL--BECAUSE IT'S HELPED ME TO MAKE UP MY MIND! I WON'T MARRY YOU -- EVER!

SUITS ME! BUT THIS TIME YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WALK HOME!-- IT'S A POLICY OF MINE TO RETURN SOMETHING I DON'T WANT!



"That night, I tossed sleeplessly -- watching a strange, orange moon through a mist of tears-- a moon that seemed to stare mockingly down at my lonely anguish!"



"Next day..."

I KNOW YOU'RE WROUGHT UP, PET -- BUT WHY BE STUBBORN ABOUT SOMETHING THAT CAN AFFECT YOUR WHOLE LIFE? ROY PHONED TO SAY HE'S WAITING IN THE LOBBY OF THE PONCA HOTEL! SPEAK TO HIM-- MAKE THINGS UP!

ALL RIGHT, MOM! GUESS IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN DO!



"A half-hour later..."

YES, ROY?

HONEY, I'M SORRY I SOUNDED OFF YESTERDAY-- BUT YOU CAN'T BE CRAZY ABOUT SOMEONE WITHOUT SOMETIMES SAYING CRAZY THINGS! DON'T SAY I'M FORGIVEN -- JUST PROMISE YOU'LL MARRY ME!

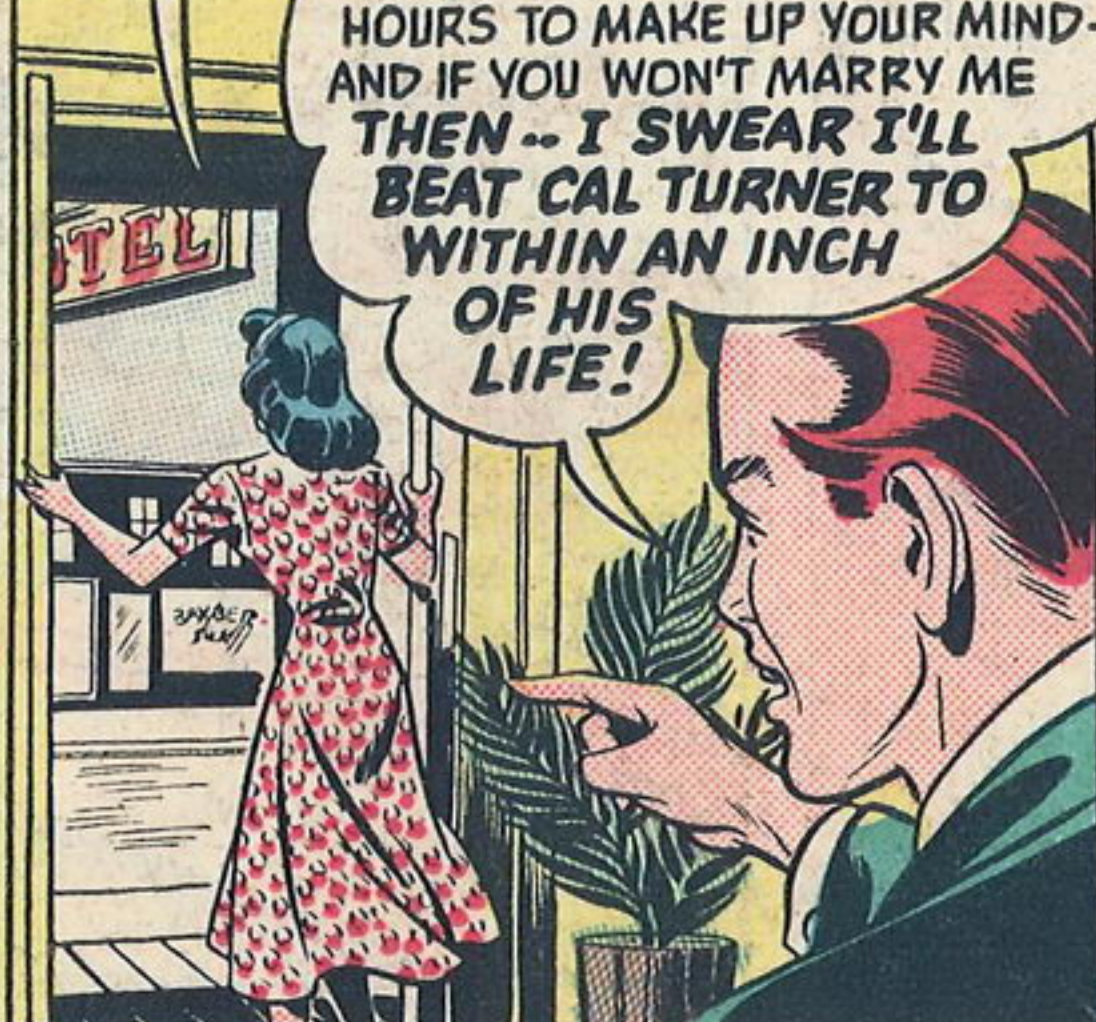


"In the second before I started to answer... I heard a whistled tune that made the words die on my lips! It was more than a melody--it was the remembered fragrance of stacked wheat--it was the pang and the paradise of a first kiss!"



DON'T MAKE ME GIVE YOU AN ANSWER NOW, ROY--**PLEASE!** I'VE GOT TO THINK IT OVER!

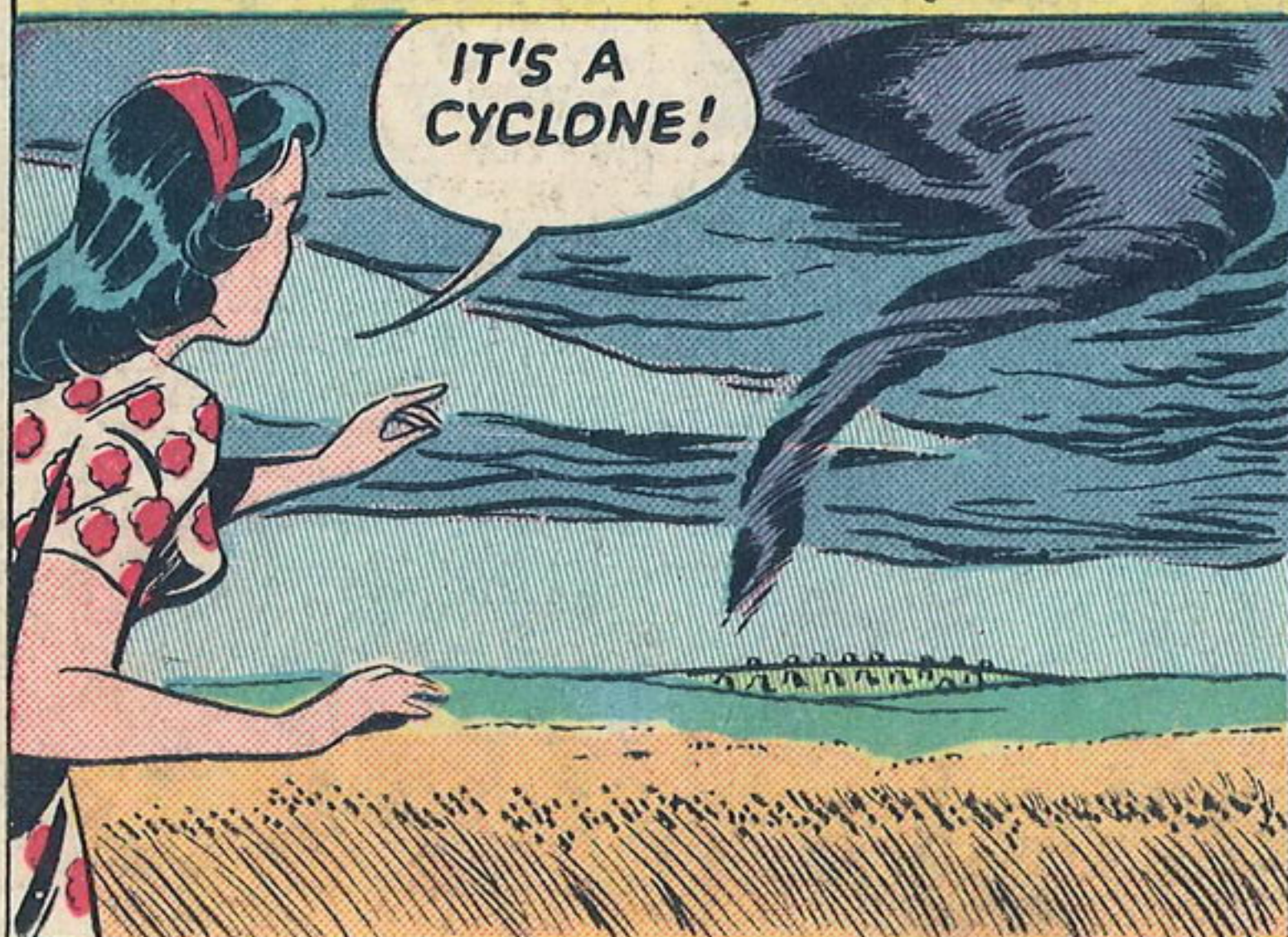
LOOK... I'VE WAITED AND WORKED AND WORRIED, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, HOPING YOU'D MARRY ME--AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET CAL BREAK IT UP **THIS TIME!** I'LL GIVE YOU TWO HOURS TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND--AND IF YOU WON'T MARRY ME THEN--**I SWEAR I'LL BEAT CAL TURNER TO WITHIN AN INCH OF HIS LIFE!**



"Terrified by Roy's claim to me--torn by bitter indecision--I walked in the murky heat to the hilltop overlooking the dismal acres of poplar stumps--and the miles of flat fields ranging beyond!"



"I don't know how long my eyes had been fixed on that black smudge on the horizon--but it seemed mere seconds before it was rearing like an immense snake over the darkened fields!"

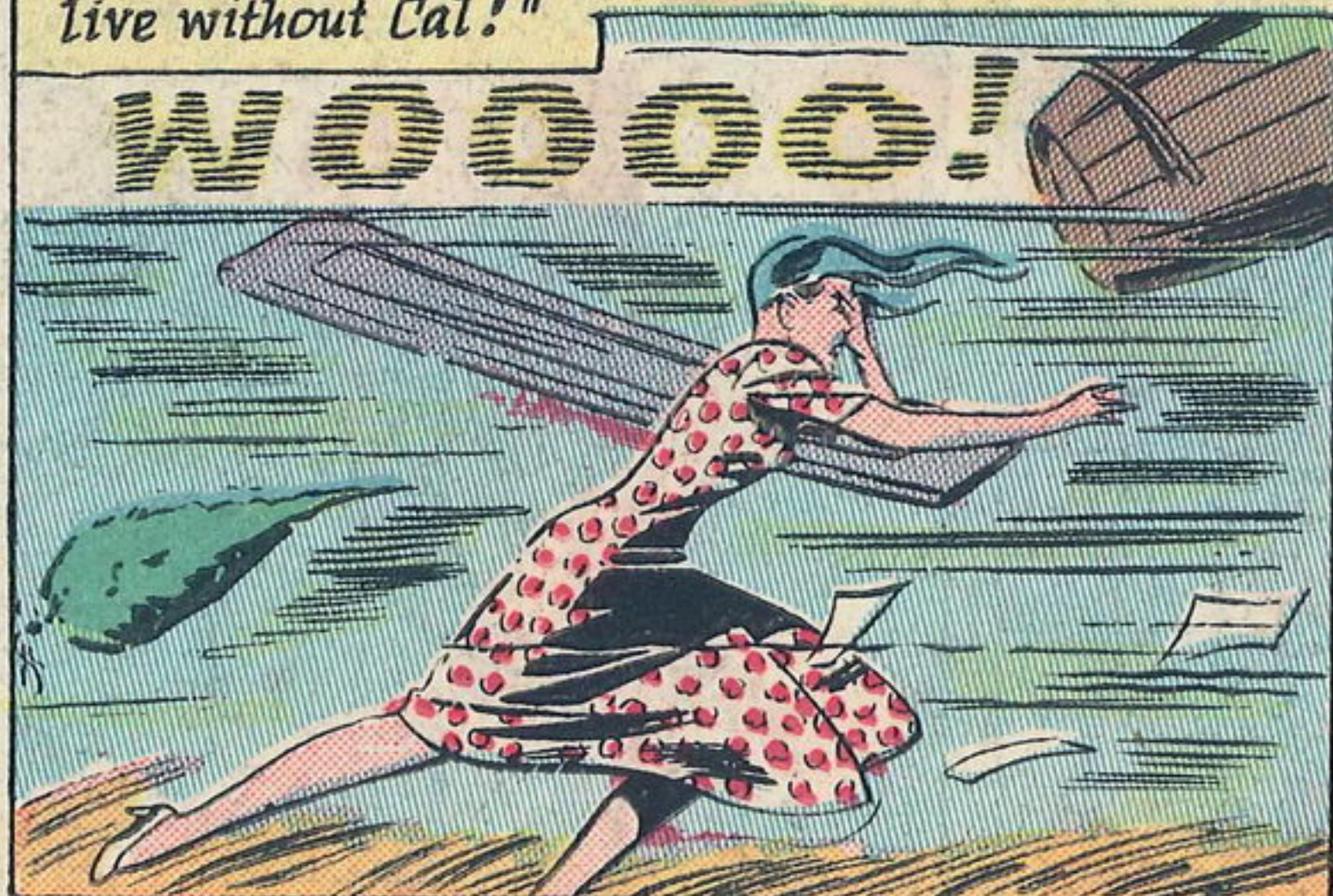


"A cyclone--a writhing spiral of disaster heading straight for Ponca City! I had only one thought as I raced before the screaming wind--"

CAL'S THERE--IN A FRAME BUILDING A HUNDRED YEARS OLD!



"Each yard was a nightmare mile as the cyclone roared around me--snatching the breath from my lungs--ripping across the tormented fields! My terror told me I had to find shelter--I had to **LIVE**--but my heart throb sounded above the crashing wind--clamoring that I **COULDN'T** live without Cal!"



"Blindly, I battled my way into town with buildings collapsing all around me--blindly--until I reached the hotel!"

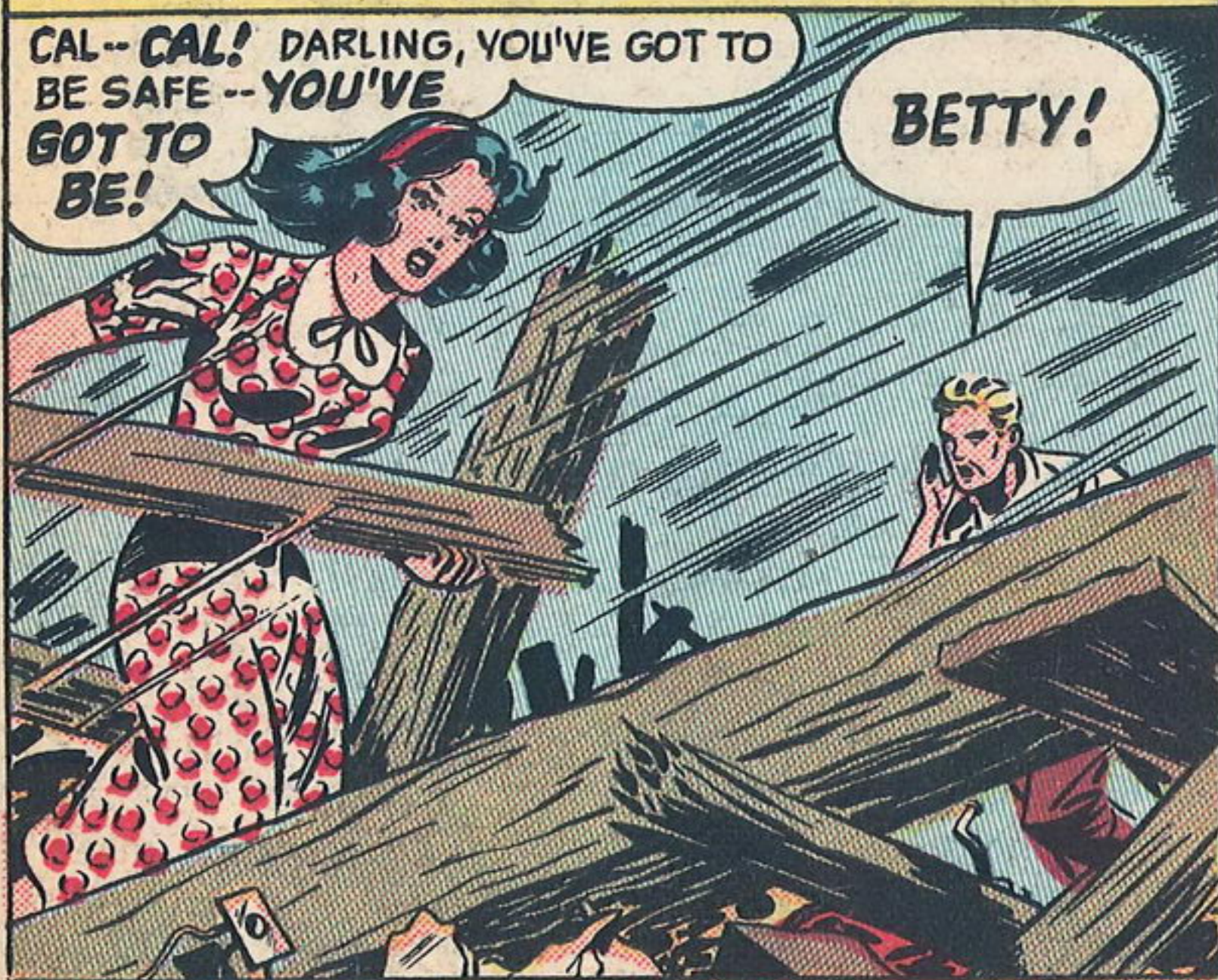
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT--NOTHING--**NO ONE!**



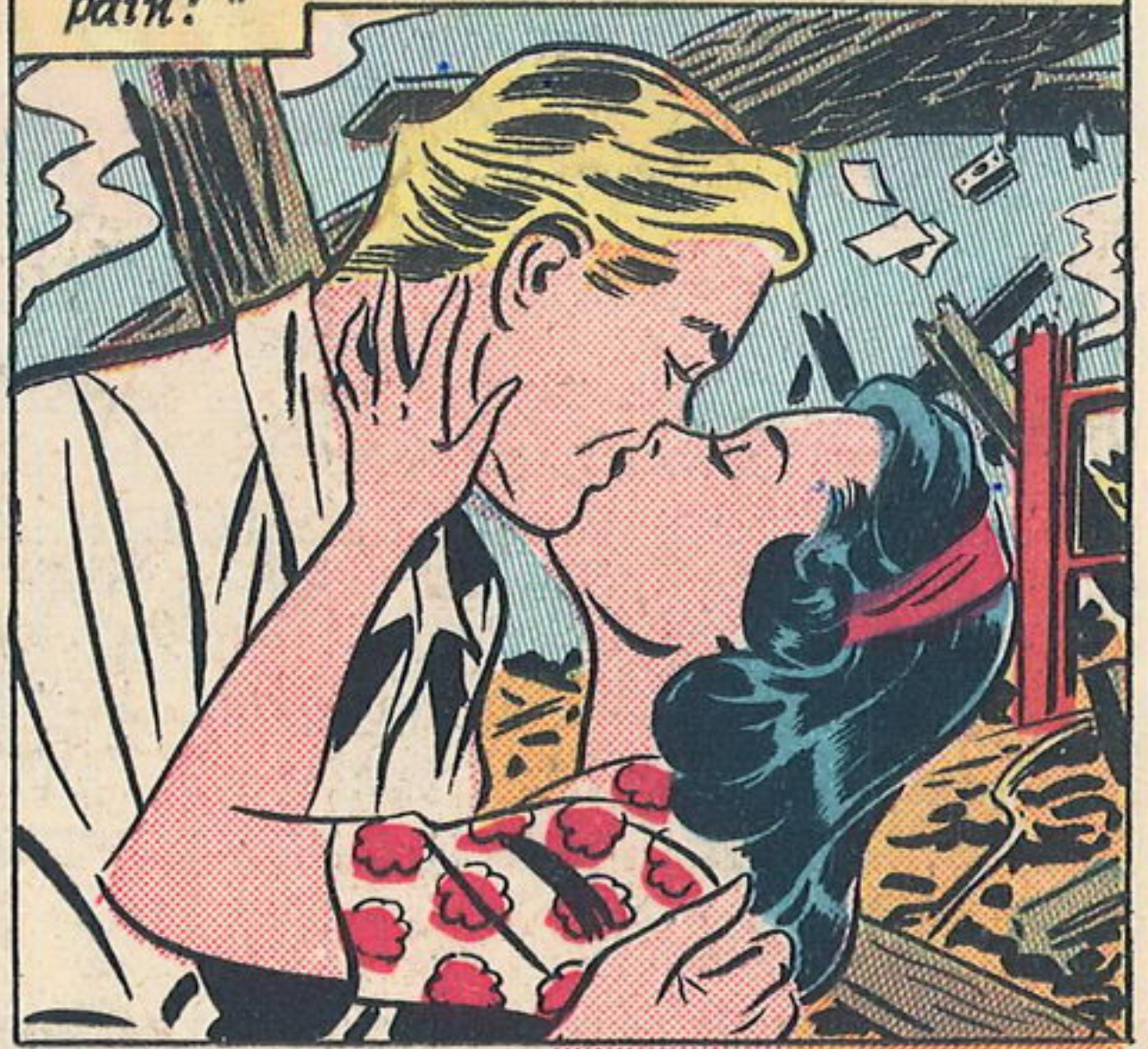
"Without hope -- without method -- without anything but the frenzy of a woman seeking her own --"

CAL--CAL! DARLING, YOU'VE GOT TO BE SAFE--YOU'VE GOT TO BE!

BETTY!



"I wasn't aware that the cyclone had roared on! There was just a sudden hush--a sudden peace--a sudden surge of joy that held weakness and pain!"



NOW THAT I KNOW YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, HONEY--WHAT ABOUT ROY? HIM? HE CAME TO MY ROOM JUST BEFORE THE CYCLONE HIT, LOOKING FOR A FIGHT--AND BABY, HE GOT ONE!



YEP--AND I GOT A GLIMPSE OF BETTY TEARING AT THE WRECKAGE, LOOKING FOR YOU! HONEY, I GUESS YOU'VE GOT THE MAN YOU WANT! IT TOOK A CYCLONE TO BRING ME TO MY SENSES--A CYCLONE THAT COULD HAVE BLOWN ITSELF OUT IN THE POPLAR GROVE I CUT DOWN! IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL ANY BETTER--I'M PUTTING EVERY CENT I MADE ON THAT DEAL INTO A FUND TO REBUILD THE TOWN!



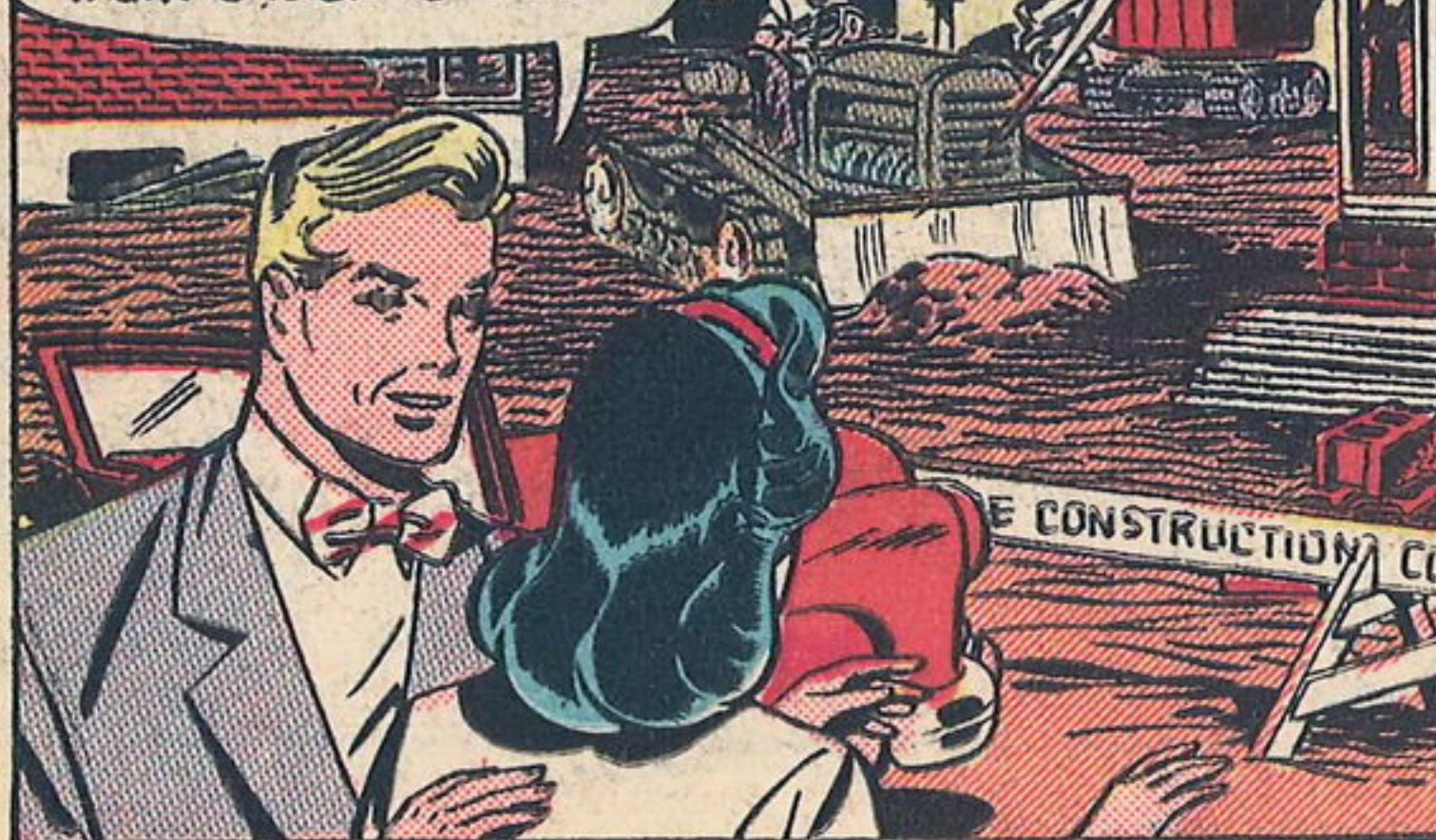
THAT PROVES WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LIKE--BUT ROY--YOUR MONEY WILL BE JUST A DROP IN THE BUCKET! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! BEFORE WE GET BUSY WITH A RESCUE SQUAD--HERE'S ONE OF THE THINGS I CAME BACK TO TELL YOU! MY CONCERT TOUR NEXT MONTH IS A SELL-OUT--AND THE WHOLE SERIES WILL BE ONE BIG PONCA CITY BENEFIT--TO REBUILD THE TOWN FROM THE GROUND UP!



"Several days later..."

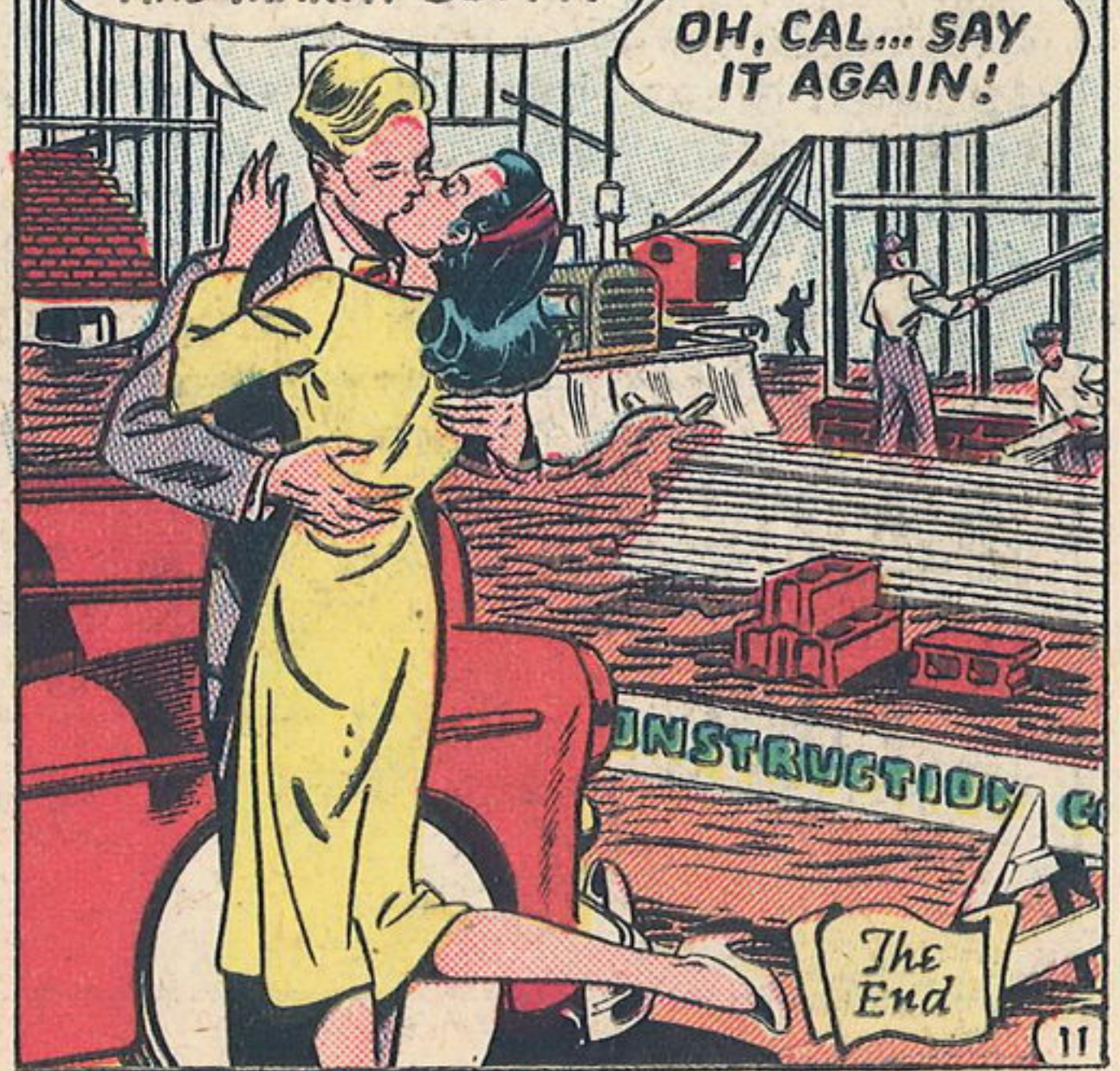
THEY'RE BUILDING EVERYWHERE, DARLING--AND THAT REMINDS ME I'VE BEEN BUILDING UP HOPES! WHAT'S ONE OF THOSE OTHER THINGS YOU WANTED TO SAY TO ME?

IT'S SOMETHING I USED TO SAY TO MYSELF DURING THOSE LONG NIGHTS ON THE ROAD--SOMETHING THAT MADE ALL MY LONELINESS AND DISCOURAGEMENT EASIER TO TAKE--



--SOME DAY, I'M GOING BACK--BACK TO PONCA CITY--AND MARRY BETTY!

OH, CAL... SAY IT AGAIN!



Party DRESS

AS A RULE, Jinny was a sensible girl, with both of her little feet planted firmly on the ground. But *this* was different! This was an *emergency*! The party at which she'd hoped to make an impression on Kenny Blane was only two days off...and...and...she had nothing pretty enough to wear!

"I can't expect mother to buy me a new dress," she worried, "because I know money's rather short around here! But if I don't look stunning I'll *die*, really I will! What'll I do?"

The dress pattern cost twenty-five cents and with the rest of her money, Jinny bought yards of cheap, but dreamy-looking dotted swiss, all pale green and frosty-looking. Frantically, she went to work, heedless of mother's advice and warning.

"Darling, you've never sewed anything but a hem before," her mother cautioned her. "Don't you think you ought to be a bit more careful and take your time? And those stitches are much too *big*, Jinny!"

But Jinny, impatient to finish the dream-dress, sewed swiftly on, deaf to all practical ideas and suggestions. She could barely wait to slip the finished dress over her shoulders, to come floating down the steps toward Kenny Blane, all cool froth and ruffles.

And finally, the dress *was* finished! One hour before Kenny was to call, Jinny stood before the full-length mirror in mother's room and tried on her creation. Well...maybe it *was* sewn carelessly! Maybe it did fit a little strangely! That didn't matter. It was a new dress and Jinny

was radiant as she waited for Kenny to call for her.

Her radiance was dimmed, however, the moment she and Kenny arrived at the party. The other girls had such wonderful dresses, with darling bits of lace and velvet, cabbage roses, embroideries...oh, *everything*! Suddenly, Jinny felt dowdy.

And then, to make matters worse, Elaine Kent caught sight of her and came up to speak. Of course, she had her eyes on Kenny all the time she was talking to Jinny. "Oh, Jinny, what an *adorable* dress! You can always tell a *home-made* dress, even from a distance, can't you?"

Forcing back her tears, Jinny mumbled an excuse and ran for the shelter of the powder room. Her eyes smarted and there was a burning sensation in her throat as she slammed the door behind her. "Frumpy! Dowdy!" she cried, stepping back to see her reflection in the mirror.

Brrrip! A nail caught hold of Jinny's dress...and the hasty sewing did the rest. The entire top yoke ripped right off the bodice, in one easy movement. Jinny was afraid to look. But when she did...her eyes sparkled and her cheeks became pink. For there she was, wearing the cutest strapless, bare-shouldered dress she had ever seen.

A touch of powder, a final pat to her hair and Jinny sailed back to the party, as pretty and confident a belle as had ever graced a ball! And even Elaine's jealous looks could not spoil her happiness as Kenny took her arm and said, "Come on, doll, let's dance! And save *all* the dances for me!"

Romance Rides The Waves

What happens when a girl of nineteen begins to live in the **PAST**?

Joyce Duncan's family had once been wealthy--only to have a series of circumstances reduce them to an average, middle class level! It happened when Joyce was a child--and she's spent ten years with the brooding conviction that she's been cheated--vowing never to lower her standards! Nothing short of an emotional landslide can change her--nothing short of the soaring romance that Joyce uncovers in these pages!

YES, THEY'RE TICKETS FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB DANCE TOMORROW NIGHT! THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU A LITTLE SURPRISE, JOYCE!

SURPRISE? I'M FLABBERGASTED, DAD!

YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO GO TO THESE COUNTRY CLUB AFFAIRS! OH, I'VE DATED ONE OF THE FELLOWS NOW AND THEN -- BUT WHEN **I** GO TO ANYTHING AS PUBLIC AS A DANCE, IT'S GOING TO BE WITH PEOPLE LIKE **MYSELF**!



"I expected sympathy--but now--with a quiet sting to his words--"

"Almost in tears, I got into the car and drove aimlessly--until, an hour later--"

"The more I thought of my father's remarks--the more I remembered how things used to be--**THEN**!"

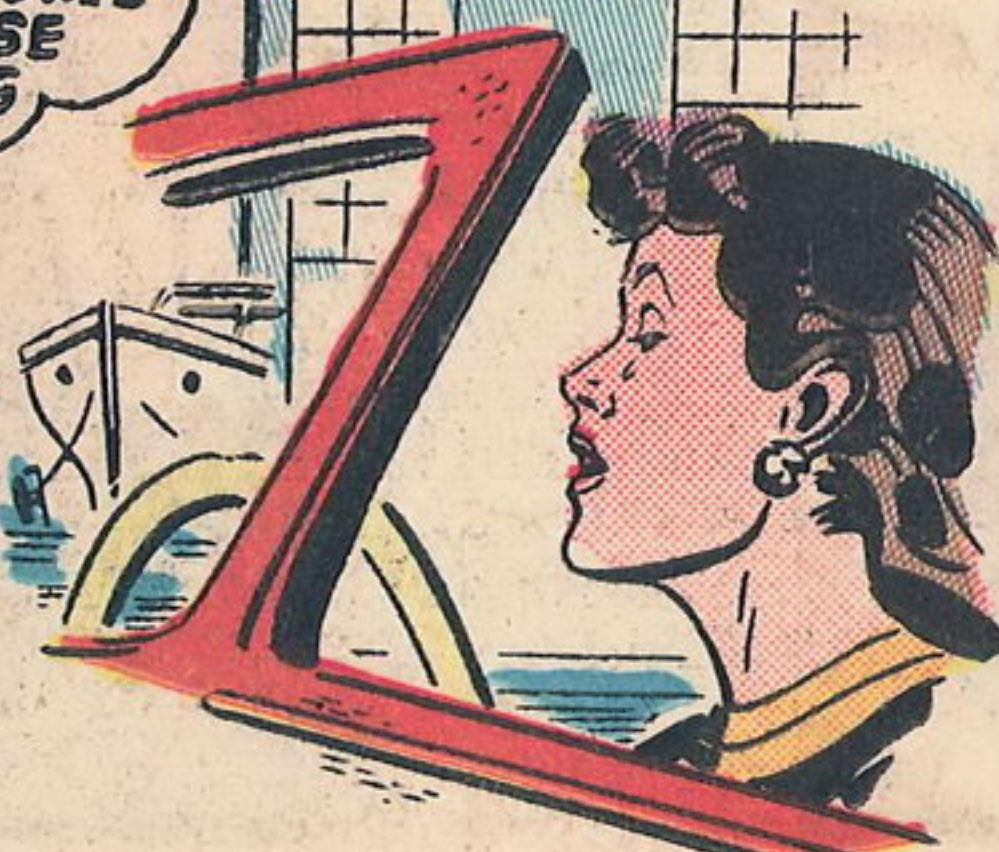
IN THAT CASE, I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY LONELY LATELY! THERE'S HARDLY **ANYTHING** YOU DON'T CONSIDER COARSE--COMMON--ORDINARY--BENEATH YOUR NOTICE! PRIDE IS A WONDERFUL THING, JOYCE--BUT **YOURS** IS CHANGING YOU INTO A **FIRST-RATE SNOB**!

YOU'LL NEVER BE A SNOB--IT'S EASIER FOR YOU TO HIDE THE FACT THAT YOU'VE DONE NOTHING AT ALL TO REGAIN THE KIND OF LIFE WE'VE LOST! BUT **I'VE** PLACED A VALUE ON MYSELF--AND I'M NOT GOING TO COMPROMISE FOR ANYTHING ELSE!

THE SOUTH SHORE YACHT CLUB! STRANGE THAT I SHOULD WIND UP **HERE**--WHEN IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE WE SOLD **OUR** BOAT! AND **WHAT** A TEN YEARS!

YOU'LL BE A REAL SAILOR IN A FEW YEARS, HONEY--AND **THEN** I'M GOING TO BUY YOU YOUR OWN RACING YAWL!

I'D **LOVE** THAT, DADDY! WHAT GOOD'S A PONY OR A BICYCLE--**ANY** KID CAN HAVE THINGS LIKE **THAT**!



"Moodily, I wandered out onto the dock!"

SOB! HOW COULD HE HAVE CALLED ME THAT -- WHEN **THIS** IS THE ONLY KIND OF WORLD I CAN LIVE IN -- THE ONLY KIND I WAS **MADE** FOR!

HI, THERE! HARD ASTERN, SWEETHEART -- UNLESS YOU **WANT** TO WALK OFF THE END OF THE LANDING!

"One glance at the well-kept craft below -- one look at **HIM** -- and I knew I **COULD** find someone like myself!"

NATCH, THAT **WOULD** GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESCUE YOU -- BUT I CAN THINK OF A LOT EASIER WAYS TO GET ACQUAINTED! HOW ABOUT A TURN AROUND THE BAY? COME ON, JUMP -- I'LL CATCH YOU!

I HAVEN'T HEARD A BETTER IDEA TODAY! -- READY?



"For just a moment, his sun-tanned arms encircled my waist! Our eyes met and lingered -- for just a moment!"

OH, I SEE... THEN YOU JUST **WORK** HERE!

"For a moment, I had been disappointed -- but now, learning there **WAS** a boat in Ted's family --"

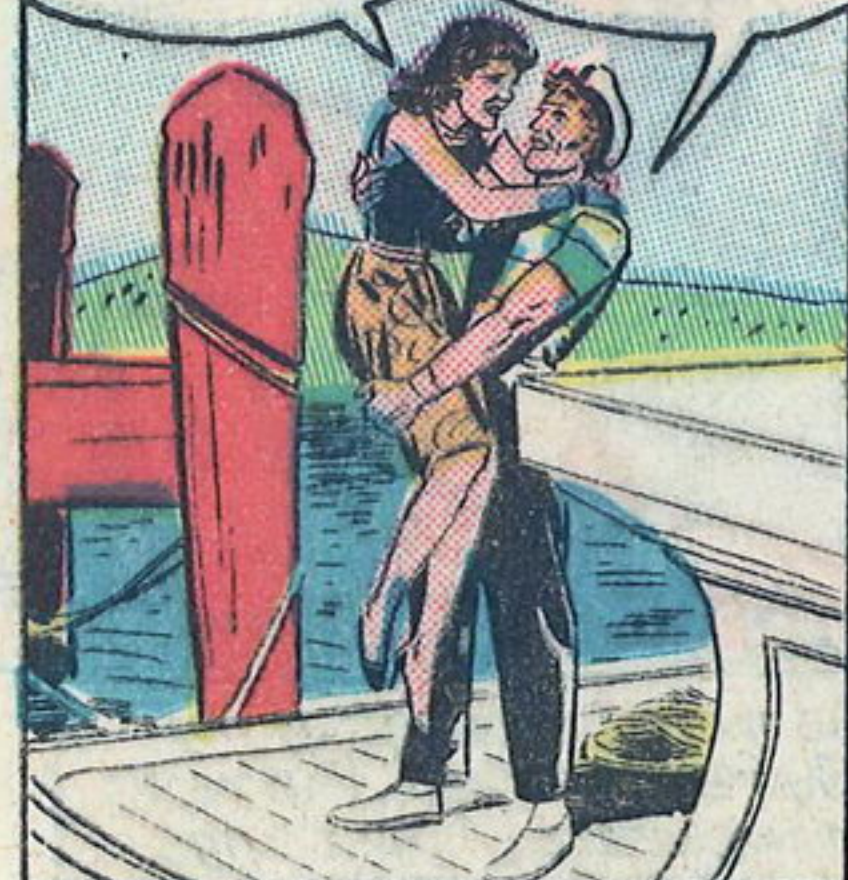
I'M JOYCE DUNCAN! ARE -- ARE YOU HERE VERY OFTEN?

SURE -- EVERY DAY! I'M TED HARRIS -- THE CLUB'S DOCK MANAGER!

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT OUR BORROWING A MEMBER'S BOAT -- IF **THAT'S** WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND! GIVING THEM TEST RUNS IS THE PART OF MY JOB I LIKE BEST! YOU SEE, I GREW UP ON MY FATHER'S BOAT -- AND I STILL TAKE HER OUT WHEN I GET THE CHANCE -- SO WORKING ON SHIPS COMES NATURALLY!

OF COURSE, CONSIDERING HER CLASS, THE "PRIMROSE" ISN'T MUCH OF A CRAFT -- JUST A RELIABLE LITTLE FIFTY-FOOTER --

HEAVENS, TED -- I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T MIS-UNDERSTOOD ME! ACTUALLY, MY FAMILY USED TO HAVE A BOAT, TOO!



"It seemed natural for the crisp offshore breeze to be in our faces -- natural for Ted's arm to draw me closer!"

THIS IS SOMETHING -- FINDING A GIRL WHO SHARES MY MAIN INTEREST! I CAN BORROW A LAUNCH ANY TIME -- SUPPOSE WE RUN OUT TO HERON ISLAND TOMORROW EVENING?

I'D LIKE TO, TED, BUT ... I WAS PLANNING TO GO TO THE COUNTRY CLUB DANCE! SUPPOSE WE GO THERE?

"At this stage, Ted meant just one thing to me -- the reflected glory I'd derive from his supposed social standing! **NOW** I could show my father -- and those mediocre friends at the Country Club -- the kind of date I could get!"

"The following night -- I found just the reaction I expected!"

WONDER WHO JOYCE'S NEW DATE IS? ISN'T HE TERRIFIC?

AND DEFINITELY UPPER BRACKET! HE'S PROBABLY THE SON OF AN OLD FRIEND OF THE FAMILY -- JOYCE'S PEOPLE USED TO HAVE **MONEY**, YOU KNOW!



An hour later--

IT'S BEEN FUN, JOYCE-- BUT I WAS HOPING TO HAVE A FEW MINUTES **ALONE** WITH YOU! YOU HAVEN'T WANTED TO MISS A SINGLE DANCE!

I'LL BE HONEST, TED! I'VE BEEN SHOWING YOU OFF! I'M PROUD OF YOU-- PROUD THAT I'VE FINALLY MET SOMEONE WHO'S REALLY MY **TYPE!**

I'VE GOT THE QUEEREST NOTION YOU THINK I'M **DIFFERENT** FROM ANYONE ELSE! I FEEL A CERTAIN WAY ABOUT **YOU**, TOO-- BUT WHAT'S THIS TALK ABOUT BEING A **TYPE?**

DO WE **HAVE** TO PUT IT INTO WORDS, TED?

I WON'T EVEN TRY, SWEETHEART!

"After several more dates, I found myself with a new idea of what mattered! Ted filled my life--and I tried to pretend I liked him for himself from the very start!"

I WISH I COULD EXPLAIN HOW MUCH I LIKE BEING AROUND WITH YOU, TED! WOULD IT SOUND AWFUL IF I SAID IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IF YOUR FAMILY **DIDN'T** OWN A BOAT?

IT NEVER **DID** MATTER TO MY OTHER FRIENDS, BABY-- BUT I WAS A LITTLE AFRAID IT WOULD WITH **YOU!** FOR ONE THING--YOU SEEM TO HAVE HAD THE "PRIMROSE" ON YOUR MIND!

DARLING -- CAN'T I SHOW YOU WHAT'S **REALLY** ON MY MIND?

IT **WOULD** HELP, SWEETHEART-- BECAUSE I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR DAYS TO SAY **I LOVE YOU!**

"But being in love with Ted wasn't enough to efface my deep-rooted pride! **HE** made it possible for me to renew the friendships my vanity had forced me to abandon-- after my family had limited its social life!"

WE'RE PLANNING A WEEK-END AT FATHER'S HUNTING LODGE, JOYCE-- AND WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU AND TED ALONG!

I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA! IF I CAN TALK TED INTO BORROWING HIS FATHER'S BOAT-- WHY DON'T WE ALL GO FOR A **CRUISE?**

YOU TOLD ME BEFORE THAT YOUR FATHER DOESN'T USE THE "PRIMROSE" WEEK-ENDS, TED! IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL TO GO SOMEWHERE-- JUST THE SIX OF US!

WELL, IF YOU'RE **SURE** THE OTHERS WOULDN'T MIND! I'VE SPENT A LOT OF HAPPY HOURS ON THE "PRIMROSE"--AND I GUESS A LITTLE GET-TOGETHER **WOULD** BE FUN!

"I spent the next few days in a flutter of excitement!"

IT'S VERY ATTRACTIVE, JOYCE--BUT DO YOU THINK IT WAS WISE TO SPEND YOUR WHOLE MONTH'S CLOTHING ALLOWANCE ON THAT ONE DRESS?

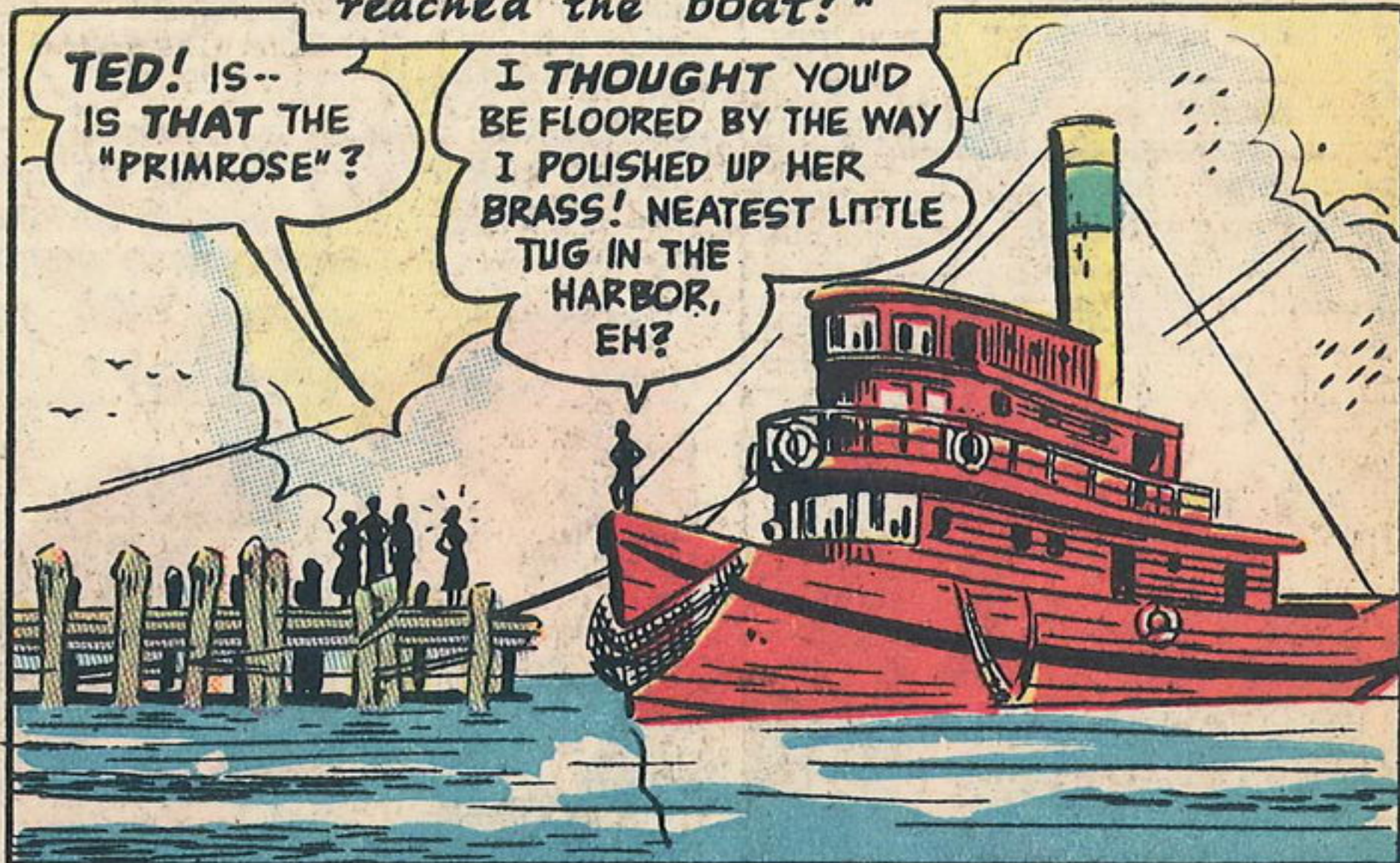
BUT I HAD TO, MOTHER! YOU JUST CAN'T WEAR ANY OLD RAG ON A FIFTY-FOOTER!



"But, next day, I could have died of humiliation when we reached the boat!"

TED! IS-- IS THAT THE "PRIMROSE"?

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE FLOORED BY THE WAY I POLISHED UP HER BRASS! NEATEST LITTLE TUG IN THE HARBOR, EH?



WELL, IT'S QUAIN, ANYWAY! AND IT IS A FIFTY-FOOTER!

HE COULD HAVE TOLD ME -- INSTEAD OF LETTING ME MAKE AN UTTER FOOL OF MYSELF! I'LL SHOW HIM -- I'LL GO ABOARD AND PASS THE WHOLE THING OFF AS A LAUGH ON HIM!

"Bitterly trying to soothe my hurt pride -- I overplayed my hand!"

ONE THING I LOVE ABOUT TUG CRUISES, TED-- YOU CAN PICK UP SOME BUSINESS IF YOU MEET GARBAGE SCOWS!

THAT'S A FINE ATTITUDE, JOYCE-- AFTER TED BORROWED THE BOAT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS?



OH, NOTHING-- NOTHING AT ALL -- EXCEPT THAT ORDINARILY, NONE OF YOU WOULD BE SEEN DEAD ON A TUB LIKE THIS! WHY DON'T YOU ALL COME OUT AND SAY WHAT YOU'RE DYING TO PROVE -- THAT I'M JUST A SOCIAL-CLIMBING SNOB?

NOW THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT IT UP, SWEETHEART, YOU'RE WORSE THAN THE AVERAGE SNOB-- BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T ANYTHING YOU CAN BE CONCEITED ABOUT!



"It was nothing I hadn't told myself in my more honest moments -- but I couldn't face the fact that Ted had seen through me!"

I CAN SEE NOW WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID I WAS YOUR TYPE -- ALL THE WHILE THINKING I LOLLERED AROUND ON A YACHT! HOPE YOUR EYES ARE OPENED NOW -- BECAUSE MINE ARE!

IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN START LOOKING AROUND FOR SOMEONE WHO LIKES TUGBOATS -- BECAUSE I LOATHE THEM -- AND I LOATHE YOU!



"In the next second --"



"I treaded water away from the tug-- secretly, hoping Ted would relent, and jump in to save me!"

DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER! IT'S JUST ANOTHER SHABBY GRANDSTAND PLAY! SHE CAN SWIM LIKE A FISH WHEN SHE WANTS TO!

NOW HE'S RIDICULING MY ATTEMPTS TO PATCH THINGS UP! I'LL NEVER SPEAK TO HIM AGAIN -- NEVER!

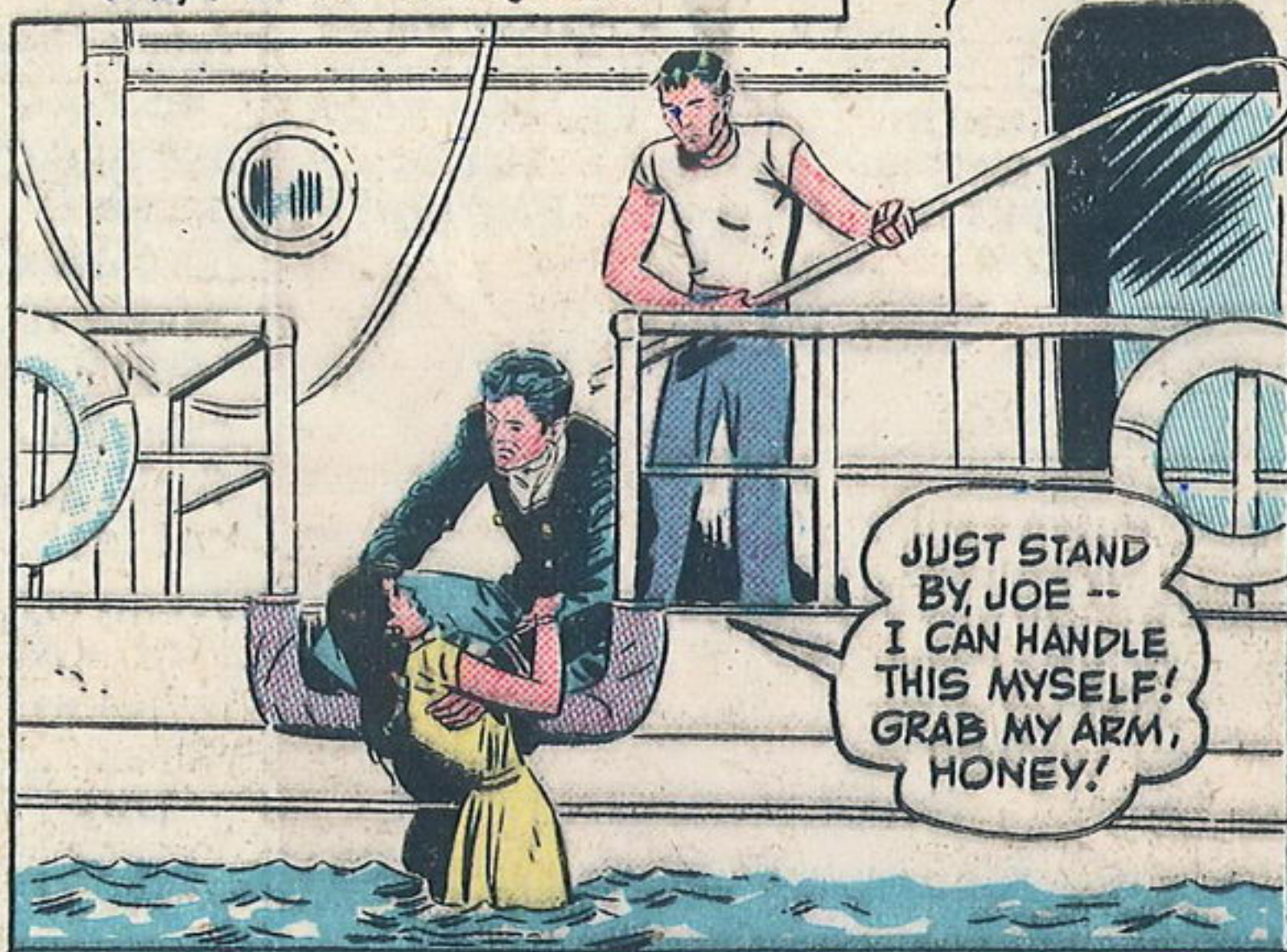


H'IM -- YOU'D HAVE NO REASON TO END THINGS -- SO IT MUST BE THAT YOU **LIKE** SWIMMING IN YOUR CLOTHES!

NOT USUALLY! BUT CAN YOU BLAME ME FOR WANTING TO GET AWAY FROM TED HARRIS'S BOAT -- **FAST?**



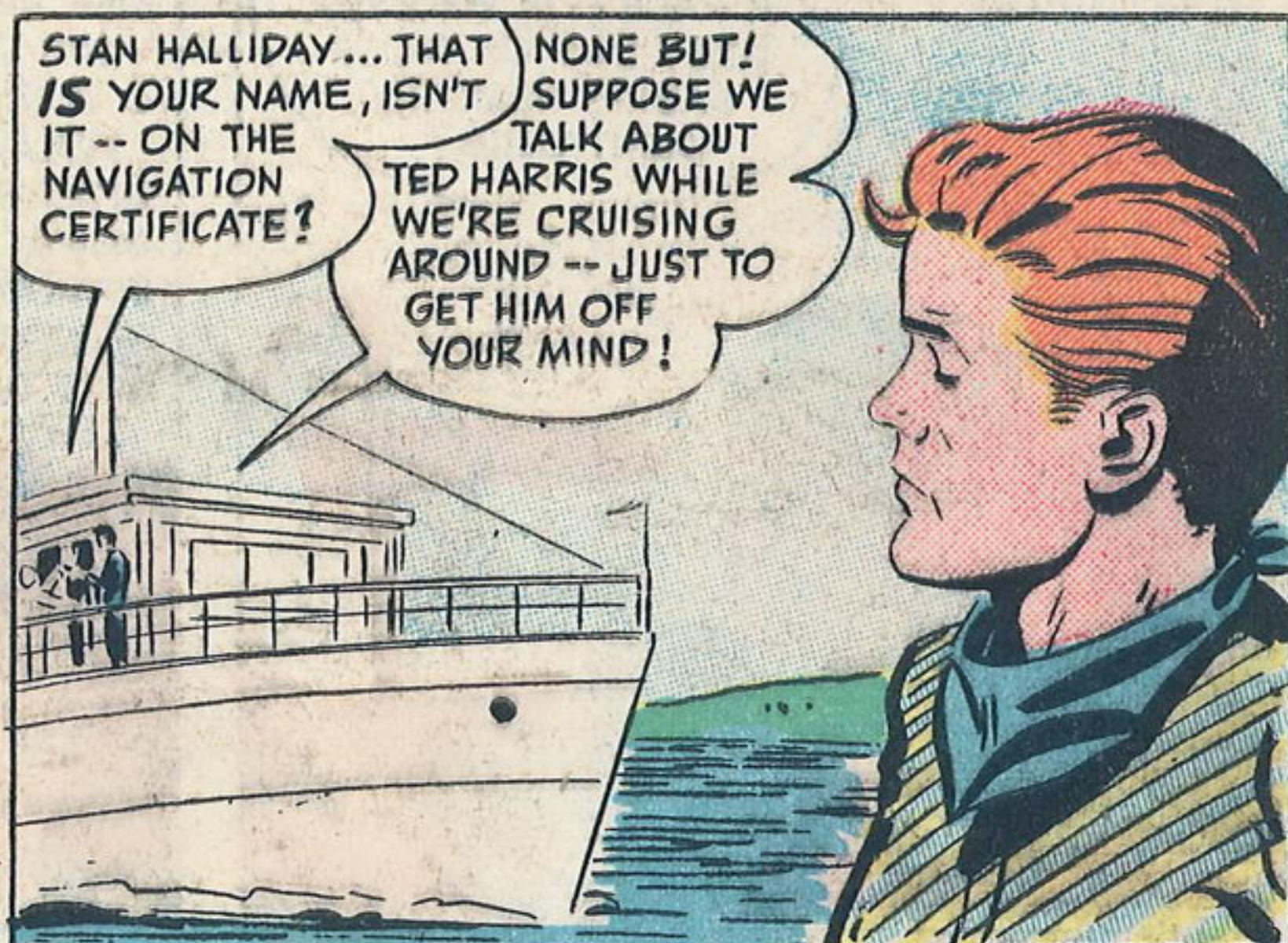
"Then -- as a large, trim-looking craft drew alongside --"



"I didn't notice his interest in the fact that I knew Ted! What mattered was that he really **OWNED** this craft -- and that I was aboard!"

STAN HALLIDAY... THAT IS YOUR NAME, ISN'T IT -- ON THE NAVIGATION CERTIFICATE?

NONE BUT! SUPPOSE WE TALK ABOUT TED HARRIS WHILE WE'RE CRUISING AROUND -- JUST TO GET HIM OFF YOUR MIND!



"An hour later...when we returned to the dock --"

WAIT A MINUTE, HONEY! THERE'S AN OLD LAW ABOUT **KEEPING** ANYTHING YOU FIND ADRIFT -- AND I'M GOING TO INSIST UPON MY RIGHT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

IN THAT CASE, I'D BETTER GIVE IN -- ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU **HAVE** GOTTEN MY MIND OFF TED HARRIS!



"Exclusive night clubs -- orchid corsages -- the knack of saying tender things with his eyes! Is it any wonder that Stan Halliday swept me off my feet -- from that very first date?"

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAD MUCH CHANCE TO GO DANCING WITH TED -- IF HE WORKS NIGHTS! OR DOES THE YACHT CLUB HAVE A WATCHMAN?

STAN, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT PLACE -- NOT WHEN I'M WITH YOU!



"Within a few weeks --"

WE'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT OF EACH OTHER, STAN ... I KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ME -- BUT IS THAT ALL?

BABY, WITH A FELLOW WHOSE INTERESTS RUN FEW AND DEEP-- THAT'S **ENOUGH!**

"I hadn't taken time to ask myself how much I liked Stan! Maybe it **WAS** enough to feel I had at last found my own level-- to feel his murmuring lips meet mine!"

GOT ANY MORE QUESTIONS, BABY -- ABOUT **ANYTHING?**

NONE THAT COUNT-- **DARLING!**

I LOVE FAST BOATS, STAN! JUST **LOOK** AT THAT POLICE CUTTER TRAVEL!

MIGHT BE FUN TO HAVE A RACE -- IF WE EVER MEET ONE OF THOSE BABIES NEAR THE YACHT CLUB!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE AROUND -- AND WHAT'S MORE, I DON'T THINK **YOU'RE** INTERESTED! YOU'VE BEEN LOST IN THOUGHT EVER SINCE WE GOT INTO THE CAR!

YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY -- AND I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU SOONER! MY MOTHER'S BEEN DOWN IN THE BAHAMAS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS -- AND I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A THREE-WEEK CRUISE TO VISIT HER! I'VE BEEN STALLING ABOUT IT EVER SINCE WE MET -- BUT I GUESS THE TRIP HAS TO BE MADE!

"After Stan left, I tried to lull my loneliness by thinking of him -- and each thought made me more keenly aware of how much I missed him -- how much I loved him!"

SORRY, MISS -- BUT WE CAN'T SEEM TO GET MR. STAN HALLIDAY AT THE NASSAU YACHT CLUB! SHALL I TRY AGAIN?

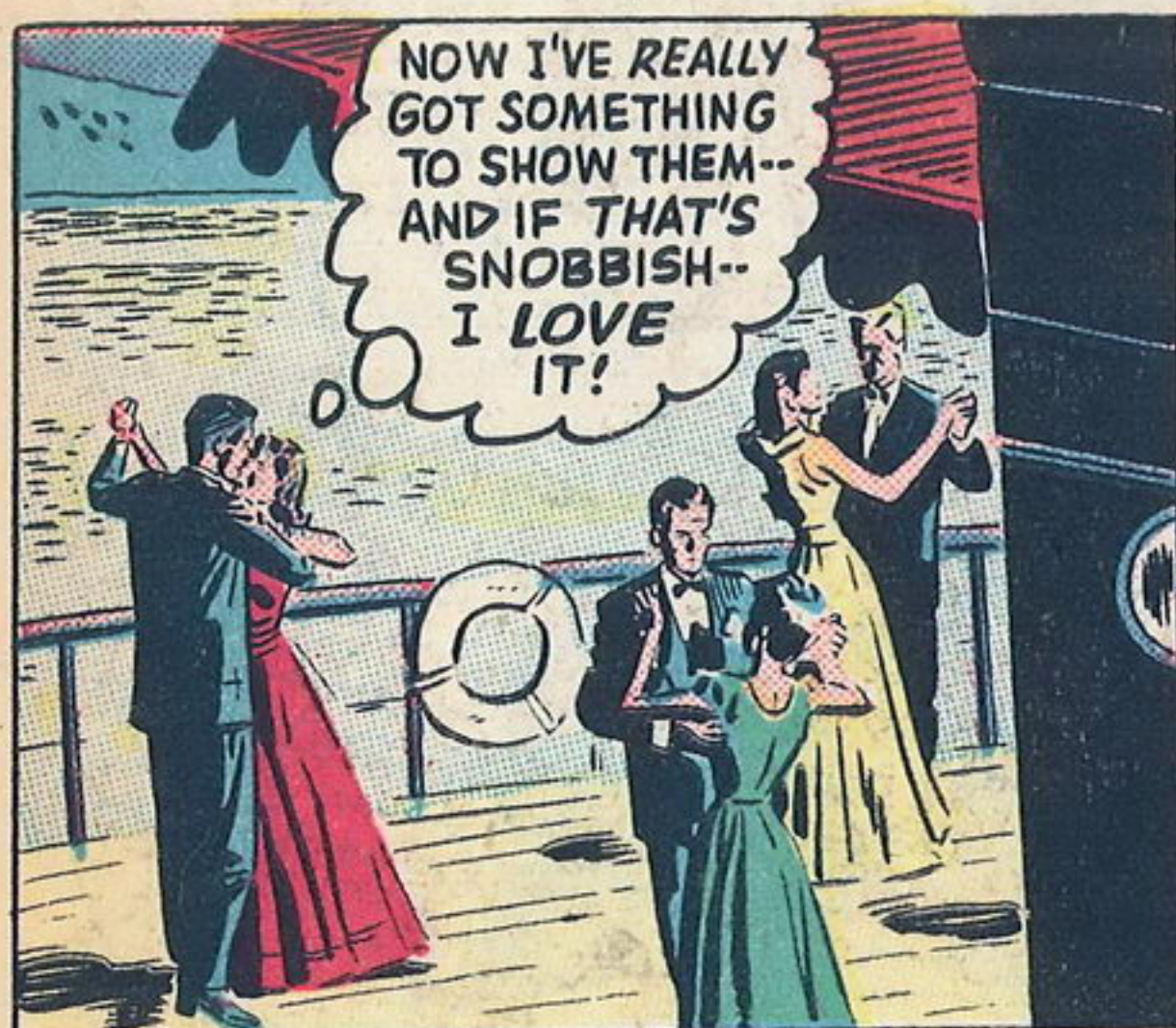
NO -- NEVER MIND, OPERATOR!

"Three weeks ... I counted every minute of those five hundred and four hours -- waiting for this one!"

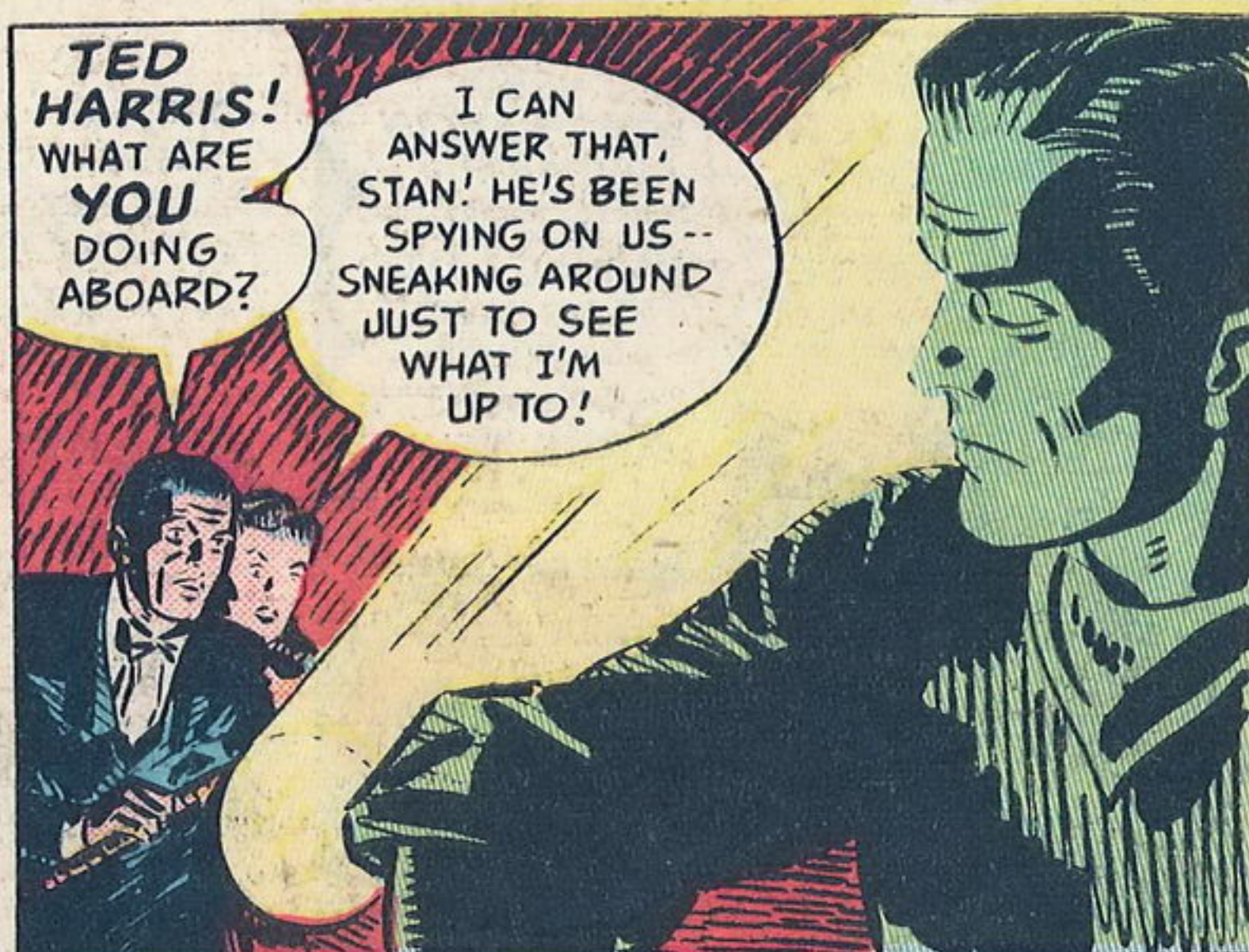
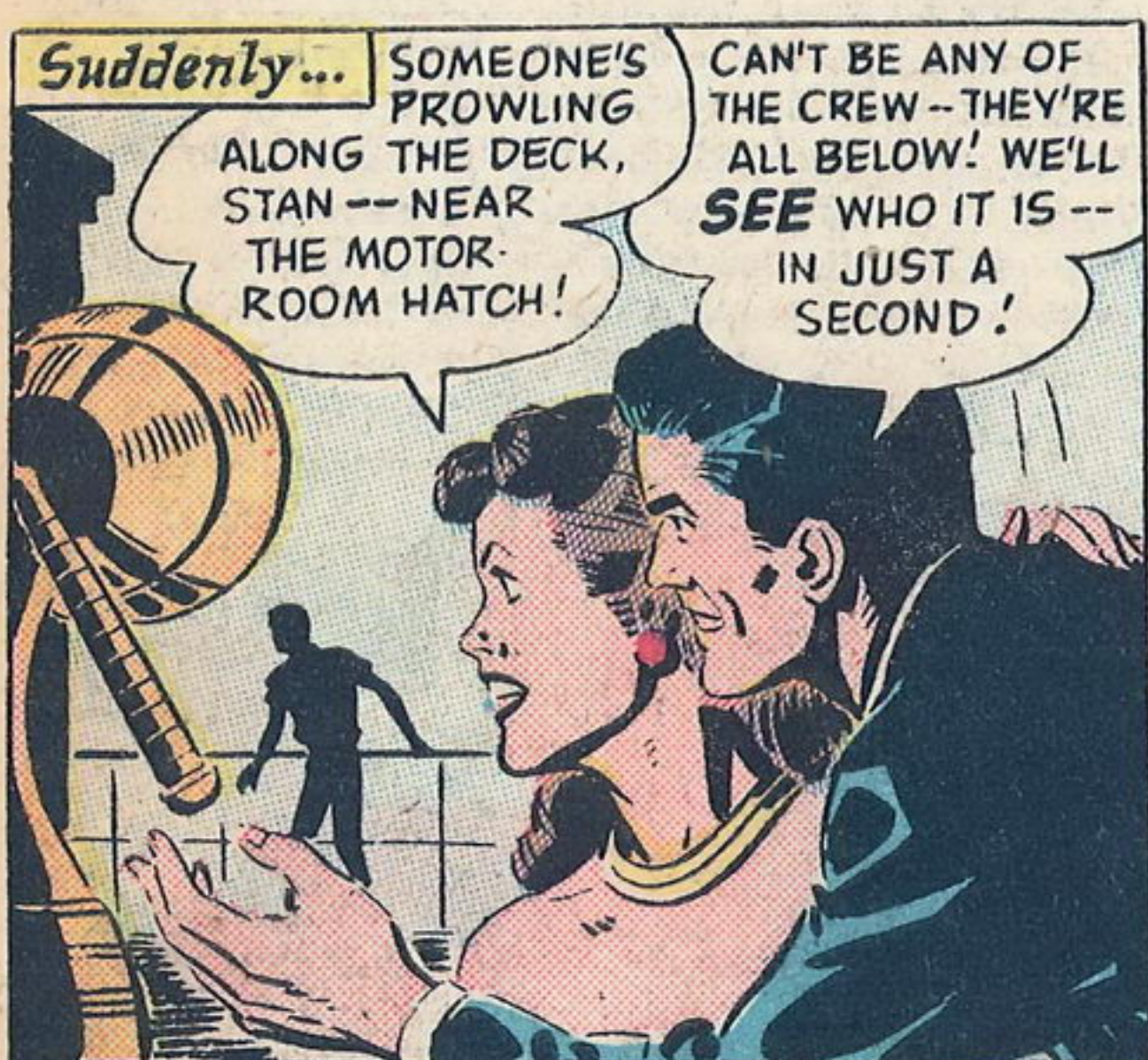
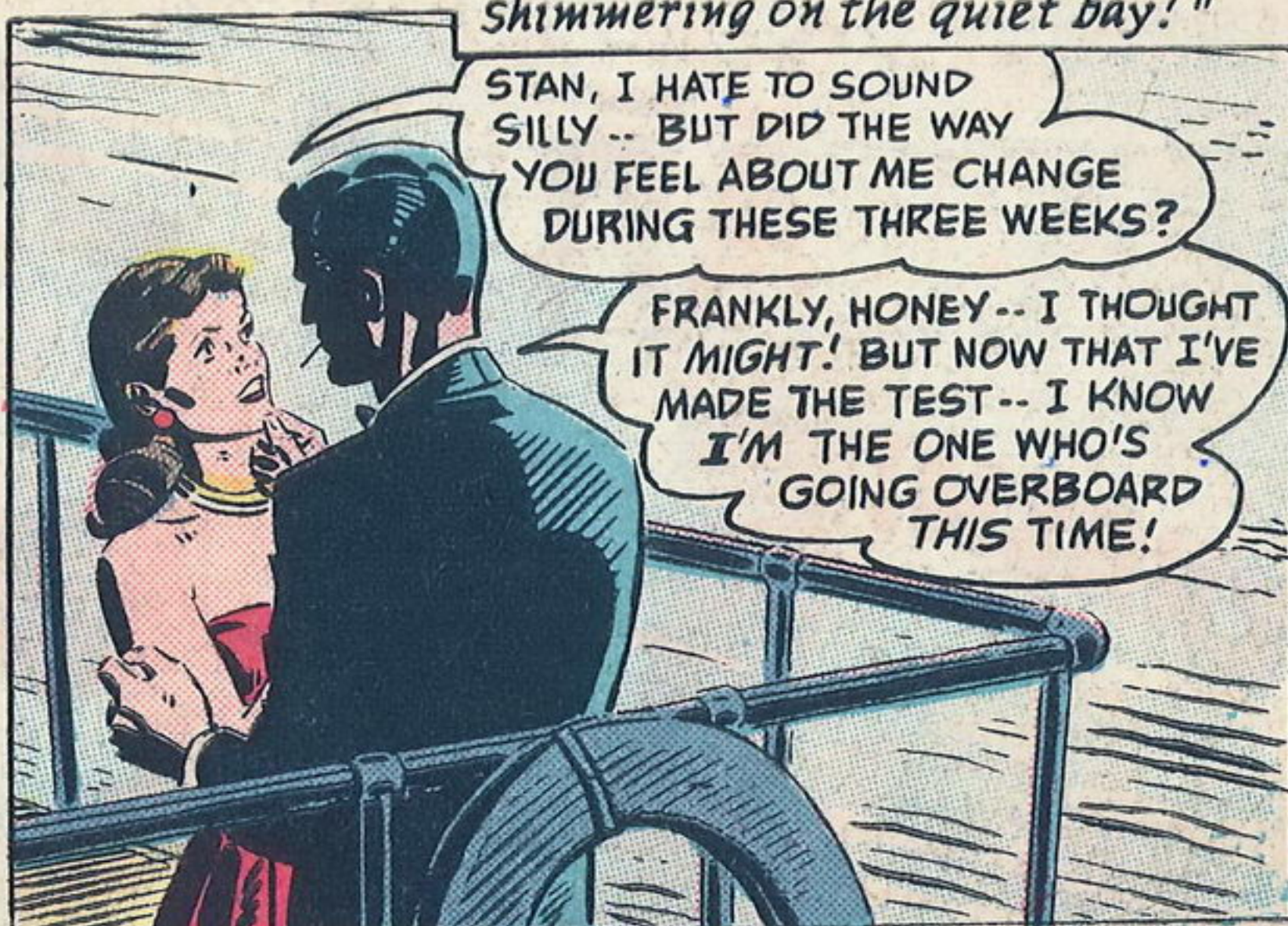
OH, DARLING -- IT SEEMED **FOREVER!** I TRIED TO REACH YOU BY PHONE -- JUST TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!

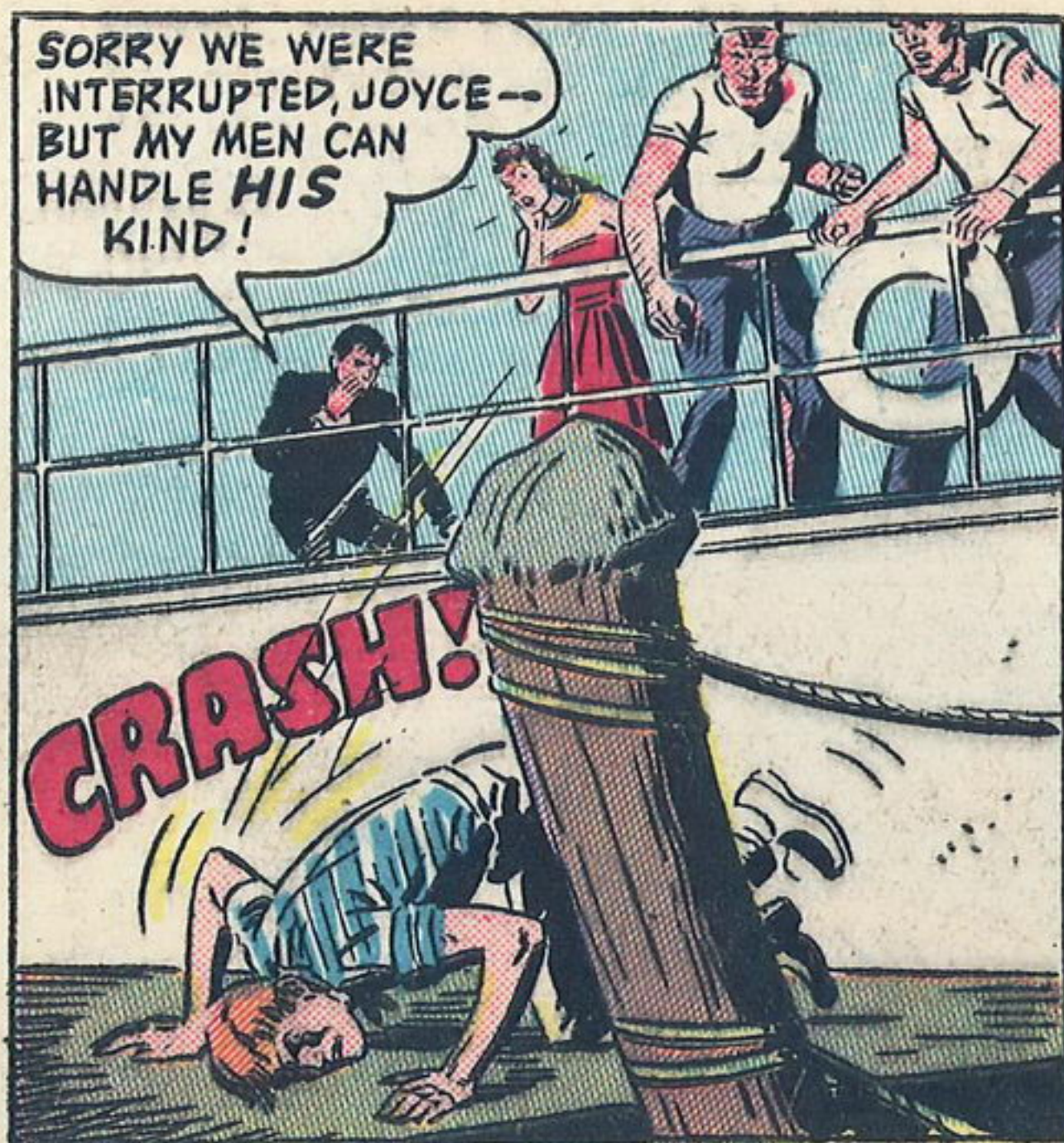
JUST OUR LUCK THAT MY MOTHER'S PLACE HAS A PRIVATE BOAT LANDING -- AND NO PHONE! BUT I'M BACK, HONEY -- AND WE'RE GOING TO CELEBRATE WITH A PARTY ON THE YACHT!

"It made up for a lot--being able to invite the very friends I had once tried to impress by cultivating Ted! That night -- "



"The others left at midnight... I was happy... happy with a radiance that matched the moonlight shimmering on the quiet bay!"





SORRY WE WERE INTERRUPTED, JOYCE-- BUT MY MEN CAN HANDLE **HIS** KIND!

CRASH!



IMAGINE SNOOPING LIKE THAT! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER EVEN WANT TO MENTION TED HARRIS AGAIN-- BUT **NOW** I'D LIKE TO TEACH HIM A LESSON!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH A RUFFIAN LIKE HIM! IF BOTH OF US MAKE A COMPLAINT TO THE YACHT CLUB COMMITTEE-- **HE'LL LOSE HIS JOB!**



I'M NOT SUGGESTING THAT OUT OF ANY PETTY DESIRE FOR REVENGE, EITHER! I JUST DON'T THINK HARRIS CAN BE TRUSTED--AND I DON'T LOOK FORWARD TO HIS BUTTING INTO MY AFFAIRS!

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT HIS COMING BETWEEN **US**, DARLING--AND AS FOR HAVING HIM FIRED-- THAT'S JUST ONE **MORE** THING WE AGREE ON!

"Maybe those **WERE** my feelings about Ted-- but I felt my stubborn pride stifling certain other feelings when he paid an unexpected visit several nights later!"



I WON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, JOYCE--WE'VE MADE A MISTAKE! MAYBE THERE **ARE** CERTAIN THINGS WE'VE GOT TO STRAIGHTEN OUT-- BUT I KNOW NOW THAT WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ALLOWED THEM TO COME BETWEEN US IN THE FIRST PLACE-- **BECAUSE I LOVE YOU!**

IT'S NO USE, TED! IF YOU THINK THAT BY COMING AROUND **NOW** YOU CAN GET BACK WHAT YOU'VE LOST-- YOU'RE BADLY MISTAKEN!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, JOYCE-- BUT **THAT'S** THE KIND OF TALK THAT STARTED ALL THE TROUBLE!

ALL RIGHT-- I'LL **TELL** YOU WHAT YOU'VE LOST! FIRST IT WAS **ME**--NOW IT'S YOUR JOB--AND YOU NEEDN'T THINK YOU CAN BLUFF YOUR WAY BACK! YOU'VE BEEN JEALOUS OF STAN EVER SINCE THE FIRST DAY I MET HIM--AND YOUR ONE WAY OF GETTING EVEN WITH **HIM** IS TO COME CRAWLING AROUND, TRYING TO PATCH THINGS UP! WELL-- **IT WON'T WORK!**

FOR ONE THING--STAN HAS GIVEN ME SOMETHING I'LL NEVER FIND AROUND **YOU**-- THE FEELING THAT I'M WITH MY **OWN** KIND OF PERSON!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHTER THAN YOU THINK! NOW THAT YOU'VE MENTIONED STAN--DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK HOW HE MADE HIS MONEY--HOW HE MANAGES TO RUN AN EXPENSIVE YACHT? I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT IT, SOLELY WITH **YOUR** INTERESTS AT HEART-- BUT WHY BOTHER? THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS TO FIND OUT ABOUT STAN HALLIDAY-- BUT I'LL LEAVE THAT TO **YOU!**



"Despite myself, I found Ted's questions preying on my mind! I knew it was just his way of getting a rise out of me -- but I needed the assurance of being with Stan, and feeling his arms around me!"

I'VE NEVER BOARDED THE YACHT UNINVITED -- BUT STAN WILL UNDERSTAND! JUST A FEW MINUTES WITH HIM WILL GET ME OUT OF THIS HORRIBLE MOOD!

"Taken up with my own stormy emotions, I barely noticed the blustery night -- or the choppy whitecaps that ran inshore as I groped my way up the swaying gang-plank!"

STRANGE THERE SHOULD BE A LIGHT IN THE WHEELHOUSE AT **THIS** HOUR! STAN WOULDN'T THINK OF GOING ANYWHERE WITHOUT TELLING ME!

"An instant later -- I stopped short on the darkened deck!"

IT'S A BAD NIGHT TO BE CRUISING AROUND, STAN -- BUT AT LEAST THIS KIND OF WEATHER WILL LESSEN OUR CHANCES OF RUNNING INTO A **COAST GUARD PATROL!**

KEEP SIGNALING THE "ALTHEA" EVERY FIVE MINUTES, SPARKS! BETTER STICK TO CODE -- WE CAN'T RISK USING STRAIGHT MORSE AT **THIS** STAGE!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO EAVESDROP, STAN -- BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME WHAT ALL THIS MEANS!

I MIGHT AS WELL, BABY -- YOU'D HAVE TO KNOW SOONER OR LATER! I'M A **SMUGGLER**, SPECIALIZING IN THE KIND OF STUFF THAT MAKES THE RISKS WORTHWHILE -- DIAMONDS, JEWELRY, AND RARE PAINTINGS! IT'S A SURE-FIRE SETUP! THE CANVAS BUNDLE THAT MY PLANT ABOARD THE "ALTHEA" IS TOSSING OVERBOARD TONIGHT WILL NET ME A CLEAR \$50,000!

"I stared blankly at Stan -- with the soundless roar of something crashing in my heart!"

YOU A SMUGGLER? OH, STAN -- IF THIS IS JUST A JOKE -- SAY SO QUICKLY!

DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, BABY -- I DO BUSINESS WITH SOME OF THE BIGGEST JEWELERS AND ART DEALERS IN THE COUNTRY! THERE'S NOTHING REALLY **CRIMINAL** ABOUT IT!

HOW CAN YOU TALK LIKE THAT -- AFTER MAKING ME THINK YOU WERE EVERYTHING **BUT** WHAT YOU ARE! I'M NOT STAYING ANOTHER MINUTE!

WAIT! I CAN'T LET YOU GO LIKE THIS, JOYCE! IF YOU'LL ONLY MEET ME HALF-WAY AND PROVE THIS TALK ABOUT LIKING EACH OTHER FOR WHAT WE REALLY ARE -- I'M WILLING TO THINK ABOUT GIVING UP THIS RACKET! BUT NOT **THIS** JOB -- THERE'S MONEY TIED UP IN THAT BUNDLE! IT'LL BE THROWN OVERBOARD IN EXACTLY FORTY MINUTES -- WHETHER I'M THERE TO PICK IT UP OR NOT!

"As we talked, I felt the yacht shudder!
We were under way -- heading into
the bristling waves in the outer bay!"



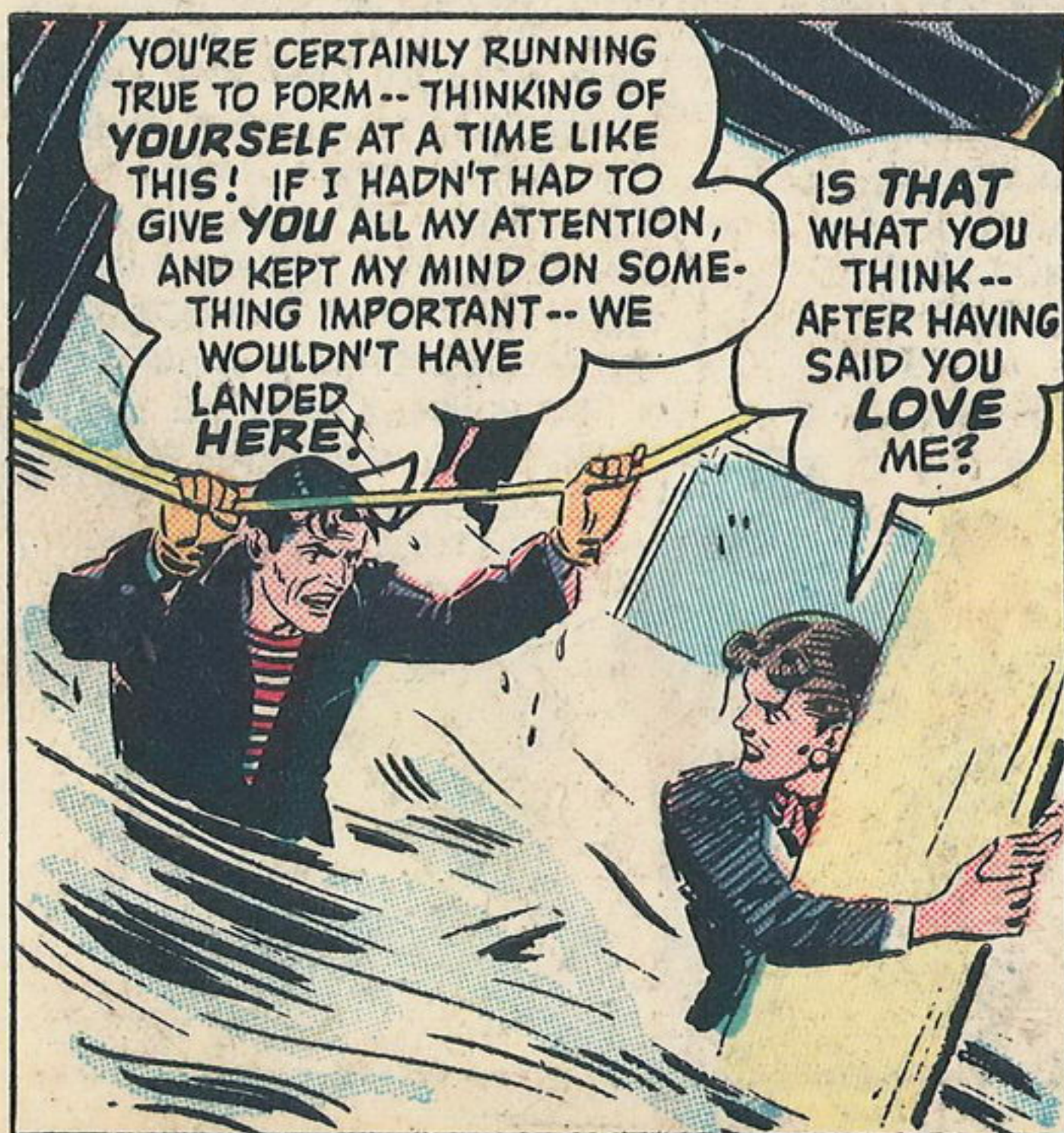
STAN -- PLEASE
TURN BACK! I'M
SCARED -- SCARED
BY THE STORM
AND EVERYTHING
ELSE!

RELAX, HONEY --
THERE'S NOTHING
TO BE AFRAID OF
WHILE YOU'RE
AROUND ME!

"A moment later..."



"Even now -- Stan's manner gave me a far
worse buffeting than the crashing waves!"



YOU'RE CERTAINLY RUNNING
TRUE TO FORM -- THINKING OF
YOURSELF AT A TIME LIKE
THIS! IF I HADN'T HAD TO
GIVE **YOU** ALL MY ATTENTION,
AND KEPT MY MIND ON SOME-
THING IMPORTANT -- WE
WOULDN'T HAVE
LANDED
HERE!

IS THAT
WHAT YOU
THINK --
AFTER HAVING
SAID YOU
LOVE
ME?

AND EVEN IF YOU **DON'T** BELIEVE THAT,
YOU'VE BEEN TALKING OF THE KIND OF
STUFF YOU'RE MADE OF -- AND NOW'S
YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW IT!



NO -- DON'T!
**LET ME
GO,
STAN!**

"Pierced by a submerged rock, the ship listed
sharply! Icy panic gripped me as a huge wave
smashed the wheelhouse -- sweeping two sailors
over the side!"



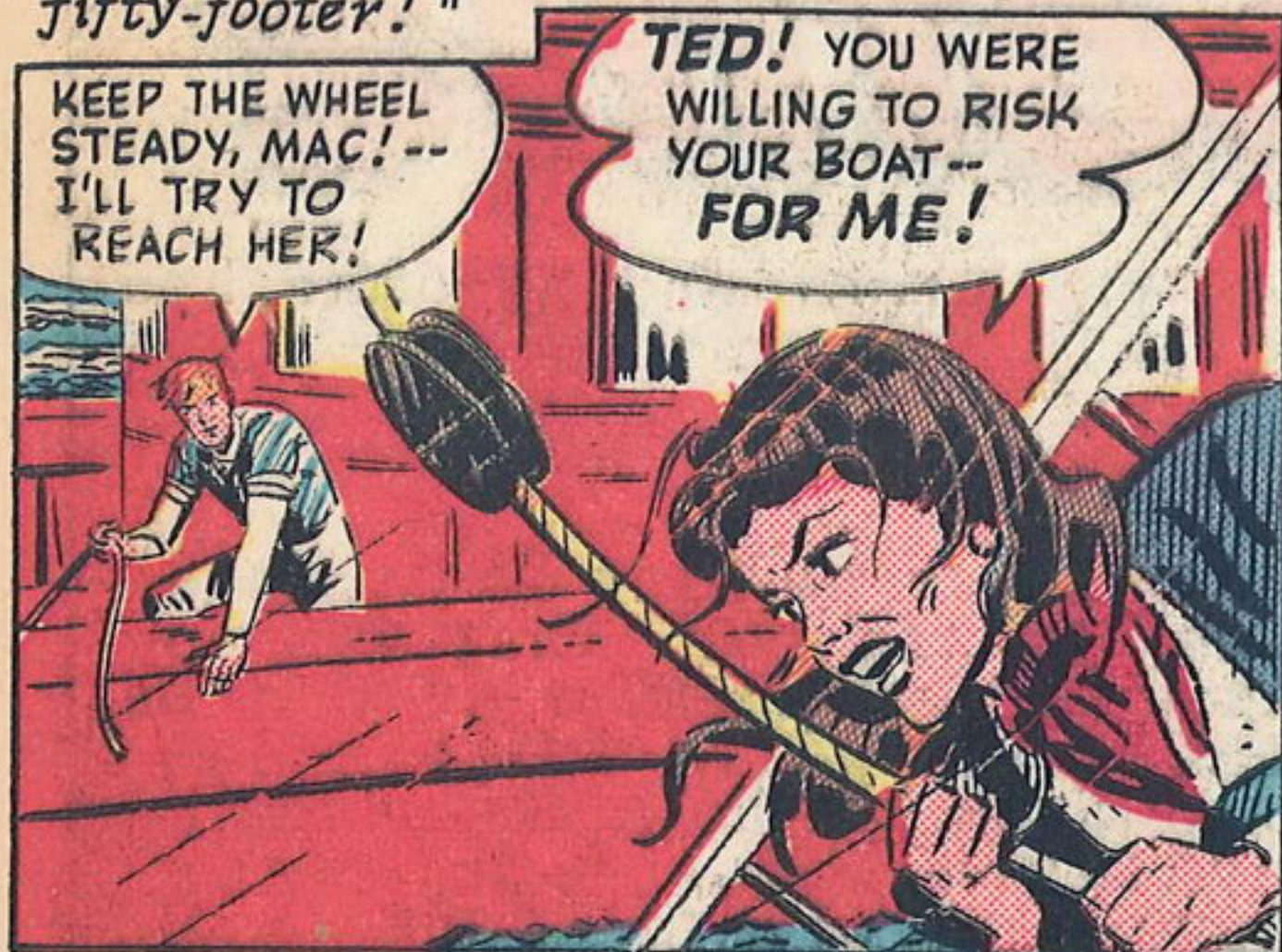
I'M GOING TO **DROWN** -- AND IT
WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF I HADN'T
LISTENED TO **YOU** -- BOASTING
THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE
AFRAID AROUND
STAN HALLIDAY!

IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO GET THINGS
STRAIGHT -- WITH THE YACHT POUNDING
TO PIECES IN A SHALLOW SPOT NO
COAST GUARD VESSEL CAN REACH!
SURE, I CARED FOR YOU -- BUT MY
MAIN IDEA WAS FIRST TO GET A
LINE ON TED AND MAKE SURE IT WAS
SAFE TO OPERATE OUT OF THE YACHT
CLUB -- AND **NOW** JUST TO MAKE
SURE YOU MADE THE ONE TRIP THAT
WOULD IMPLICATE YOU AS AN
ACCOMPLICE IF YOU
TALKED!

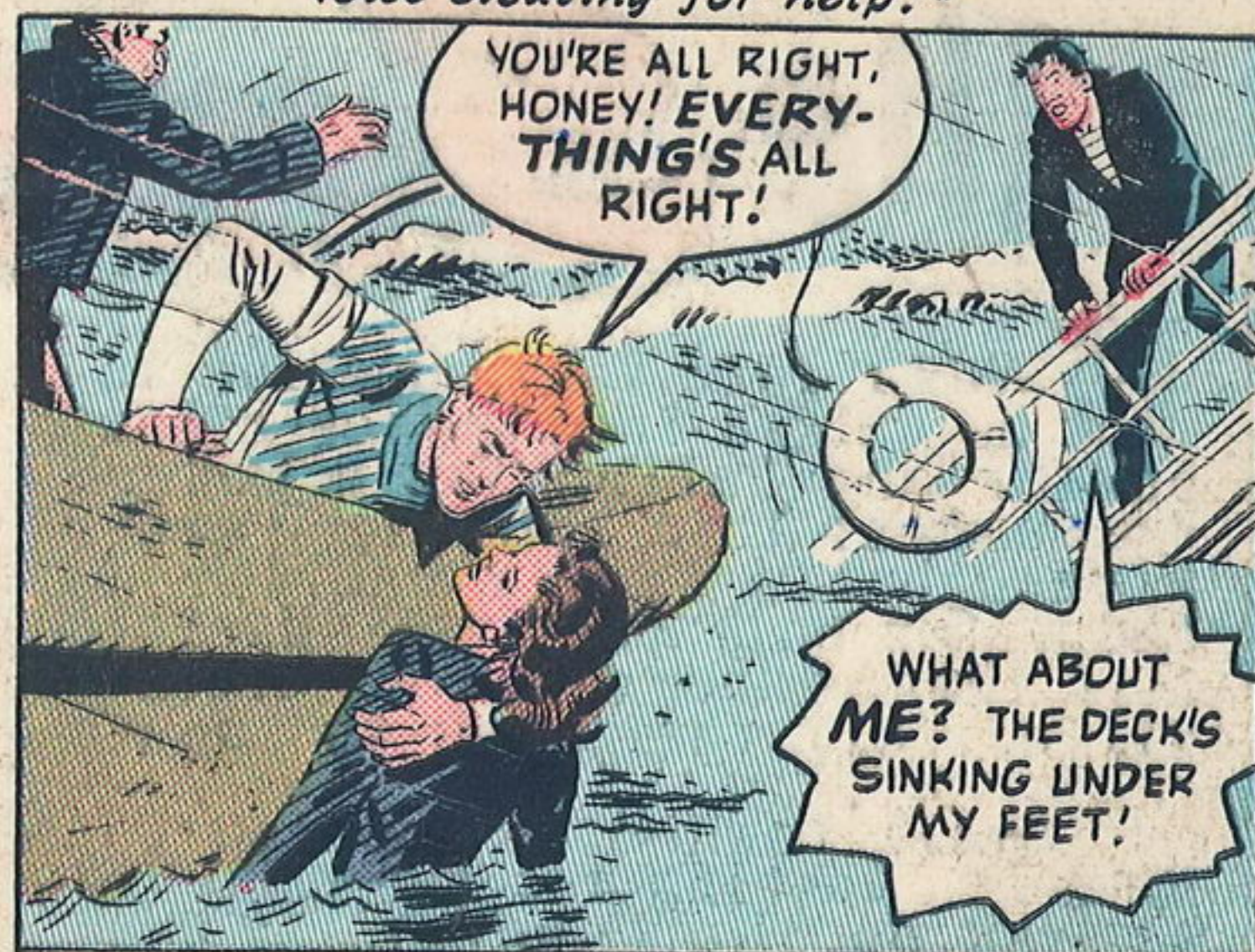
YOU -- YOU
LOW-LIVING
WRETCH!



"Suddenly, with a hoarse siren note, the 'Primrose' slipped carefully alongside the sinking yacht -- and I gave fervent thanks that it **WAS** a battered little fifty-footer!"



"For a moment, everything went blank! I was aware of a familiar arm around me -- and a frantic voice bleating for help!"



"A minute later -- as the yacht capsized--"



I STARTED SUSPECTING YOU SEVERAL WEEKS AGO -- AFTER SEEING THE PHOTOGRAPH OF A STOLEN YACHT IN A BOATING MAGAZINE! I KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT SHIPS TO HAVE BEEN FOOLED BY THAT NEW SUPERSTRUCTURE AND PAINT JOB -- AND THAT'S WHY I SLIPPED ABOARD -- TO CHECK THE ENGINE NUMBER! AFTER I SAW THE WAY JOYCE FELT, I DECIDED TO DROP MY SUSPICIONS -- BECAUSE THEY MADE IT THAT MUCH HARDER FOR ME TO FORGET HER!

AFTER ALL I SAID -- YOU HAD TO TRY TO FORGET ME?



TED -- I WAS HORRIBLY WRONG! THERE WAS A PART OF ME LIKE THAT YACHT -- SOMETHING NOT REALLY MINE, SOMETHING PUT TO THE WRONG USE, AND SOMETHING THAT HAS DISAPPEARED -- FOREVER! WILL YOU FORGIVE ME?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, HONEY? I'VE HAD SOME TOUGH MOMENTS WITH THE "PRIMROSE," TOO -- BUT WE'VE MANAGED TO STICK TOGETHER! GUESS IT'S A HABIT OF MINE!



The Smoothie

HARLEY felt very superior as he walked into the ice-cream parlor and called for a coke. What a small town this place was! Although his family had lived there for only one week, Harley felt that he knew all about Greenville...all there was to know!

"Small town!" he sneered to himself, waiting for the coke to be set on the counter. "Why, half the kids here have never even seen the inside of a theatre! I'll bet there isn't one guy here who owns a tuxedo!"

Looking around the ice-cream parlor, Harley caught sight of Susu Bennett, having a malt at the other end of the counter. While she wasn't sophisticated enough for his taste, Harley decided he might as well talk to her. She wasn't bad-looking, at that!

"Mind if I join you?" he asked her in his suavest tones.

"Oh, Harley, don't be such a drip," Susu laughed, indicating the empty stool next to hers. "Sit down."

Harley sighed, loudly enough for Susu to get the full benefit of his stage talents. "Greenville," he murmured. "This place dies every night. Oh, well, might as well make the best of it as long as I *have* to live here! Which reminds me, Susu, how about giving me a date? There must be *something* to do in this hick town that won't be a complete bore!"

Susu Bennett eyed him out of her dark, slightly slanting eyes. "Well, that's quite an invitation, Harley!" she smiled.

"Just thought I'd do you a small favor," he said smugly.

Susu's eyes seemed to turn darker. "Thanks," she said, "but I'm sorry. I just can't let you sacrifice yourself that way!" With a quick movement she was

off the stool and had marched briskly out of the ice-cream parlor.

Harley, finishing his coke alone, pitied her. That was another perfect example of what he meant. The girls in this one-horse dump had no sense. Imagine, turning *him* down! Oh, well, there were plenty of girls in Greenville, and most of them would give plenty to have a real date with a real big-city guy. That girl Patty, for instance. She wasn't bad.

At home, Harley dialled Patty's phone number hastily. As he lifted the receiver to his ear, however, he heard not one voice, but *two*! "Party line!" he thought scornfully. "Another small-town gimmick!"

One of the voices, laughing musically, was saying, "And he thought he was doing me such a *favor*! The great, big, sophisticated guy was giving me a break, asking me for a date!"

Harley was shocked into attention. Why, that...that was Susu Bennett! And she was talking about *him*! And Patty was answering...

"Everyone's laughing at him," she was saying. "He thinks no one in Greenville has ever heard of a subway or seen a tall building! He's so busy being conceited, he hasn't time to have any fun! I don't know a girl in Greenville who would give that big-time operator a date!"

Silently, Harley put the receiver back on the hook. For a moment, he was so angry that he could hardly think. And then the truth came to him. He *had* made an impression, all right...a *bad* one! For the first time, Harley realized that *he* might be wrong and Greenville might be right...which was the beginning of a new and pretty nice guy!

DATING

DO's and DON'T's

DO BE UNAFFECTED, WITHOUT PUTTING ON ANY FALSE AIRS OF DIGNITY! THE BEST RULE TO FOLLOW IS TO BE YOURSELF, TO ACT NATURALLY AND SIMPLY, EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT THINK YOU LOOK A LITTLE UNDIGNIFIED!



DON'T BE ARTIFICIALLY HAUGHTY AND STIFF FOR FEAR OF RUINING YOUR DIGNITY! IF YOU PUT ON FALSE AIRS, YOU MAY FIND THAT YOU'RE GETTING THE AIR!



DO BE UNDERSTANDING AND FORGIVING WHEN YOUR BOY-FRIEND OCCASIONALLY LETS HIMSELF GO AND CRITICIZES YOU OR YOUR ACTIONS! NO ONE IS PERFECT, AND IF HE CARES FOR YOU, YOU OUGHT TO BE THANKFUL FOR HIS WELL-MEANING CRITICISMS... BECAUSE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PLEASE HIM MORE!



DON'T BE SO SENSITIVE THAT WELL-MEANT SUGGESTIONS HURT YOUR FEELINGS... IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CRITICISM, IT SHOWS THAT YOU'VE JUST NEVER GROWN UP EMOTIONALLY!



DO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOUR LOOKS AND GROOMING, SO THAT YOU'RE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU CAN BE... AND THEN FORGET ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR VANITY!



DON'T BE SO PROUD OF YOUR LOOKS THAT YOU'RE CONSTANTLY TEARING DOWN OTHER GIRLS' APPEARANCES OR FISHING FOR COMPLIMENTS!



For recommended reading...



AMERICAN COMICS GROUP!



ALL BIG
52
PAGES



They're the terrific titans...
THE GREATEST GROUP
of HEADLINE HITS IN HISTORY!



READ THEM ALL
...REGULARLY...
Read **AMERICAN!**

**LEARN
TO
DANCE
IN
5 DAYS
OR
PAY
NOTHING!**



RHUMBA!

SAMBA!



SQUARE DANCES!

It's Easy to Learn DANCING!

JITTERBUG!

SIXTEEN AMAZING DANCE COURSES!

"Dancing" was written by Betty Lee, one of America's foremost dancing authorities. It contains 16 complete dance courses, each worth as much as you pay for the entire book! It will help you learn all dance steps including Rhumba, Samba, Jitter bug and Fox Trot and 12 others!

HAVE MORE FUN!

Study the chart and see how this exciting book can help you become a smooth dancer! Just fill in coupon and "Dancing" will promptly be sent to you by return mail in plain wrapper.



If You Can Do
This Step—
You Can Dance
in 5 Days!



Here's how this exciting book can help you become a smooth dancer. It's full of easy-to-follow diagrams and instructions.

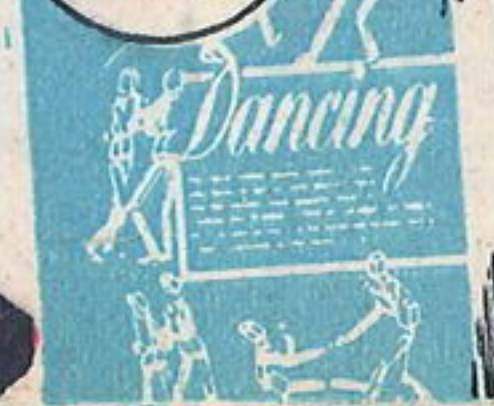
What happens to *you* when everyone starts to dance? Do you join the fun... or do you sit and watch alone? NOW—thanks to this unusual dance book, you'll find it much easier to learn to dance and be popular! Your friends will be amazed and surprised when they see you do the latest dance steps with ease. This book is written clearly, simply and is full of easy-to-follow illustrations. And you learn in the privacy of your home!

FOX TROT—RHUMBA—SAMBA

This amazing book includes instructions for COUNTRY DANCES...and shows you how to Call SQUARE DANCES!

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\$1.98



MAIL COUPON TODAY

PIONEER PUBLICATIONS INC., DEPT. H-10
1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

Please rush my copy of "Dancing" in plain wrapper. If I am not completely satisfied, I'll return book in 5 days and get my \$1.98 back.

☐ Send C.O.D. I'll pay postman \$1.98 plus postage.
☐ I enclose \$1.98. You pay postage.

Name

Address

City State

New silk-finish enlargement, ivory gold-tooled frame

*Sensational
Offer
Only*

19¢
EACH

**FROM YOUR FAVORITE SNAPSHOT,
PHOTOGRAPH OR NEGATIVE**

Send Any Photo For Beautiful
5x7 Inch ENLARGEMENT On This
SPECIAL GET-ACQUAINTED OFFER!
Your Original Returned

Have you ever wished you could have your own favorite picture or snapshot enlarged like the pictures of Movie Stars? If you act now, you can make your wish come true. Just to get acquainted, we will make you a handsome, silk finish enlargement, mounted in a rich, gold-tooled frame with glassine front and standing easel back for only 19c each for the Picture and Frame, plus cost of mailing. Hundreds of thousands of people have already taken advantage of this generous offer, and to acquaint millions more like yourself with the famous studio portrait quality of our work, we now make this trial offer to you.

Think of it, only 19c each for a beautiful enlargement and frame you will cherish for years to come. Because of the sensational low price of this get-acquainted offer we must set a limit of 2 to a customer. So hurry—send one or two of your best photographs (either picture or negative) with the coupon below today. *Be sure to include the color of hair, eyes and clothing* for complete information on having your enlargement beautifully colored in life-like oils. **SEND NO MONEY!** Just mail coupon to us today. Include all information. Your original snapshot or negative will be returned.

RUSH YOUR ORDER! Your enlargement will be shipped direct from our Hollywood studios!

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Enclosed find.....snapshot or negative.
(Specify number, limit 2)

Please make.....Enlargement and Frame.
(Specify number, limit 2)

I will pay postman only 19c each for Enlargement and Frame, on arrival, plus mailing costs, on your 10-day money-back guarantee offer.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... () STATE.....
(Zone)

Fill out description below. Mark back of picture 1 and 2.

COLOR—Picture No. 1

Hair.....

Eyes.....

Clothing.....

COLOR—Picture No. 2

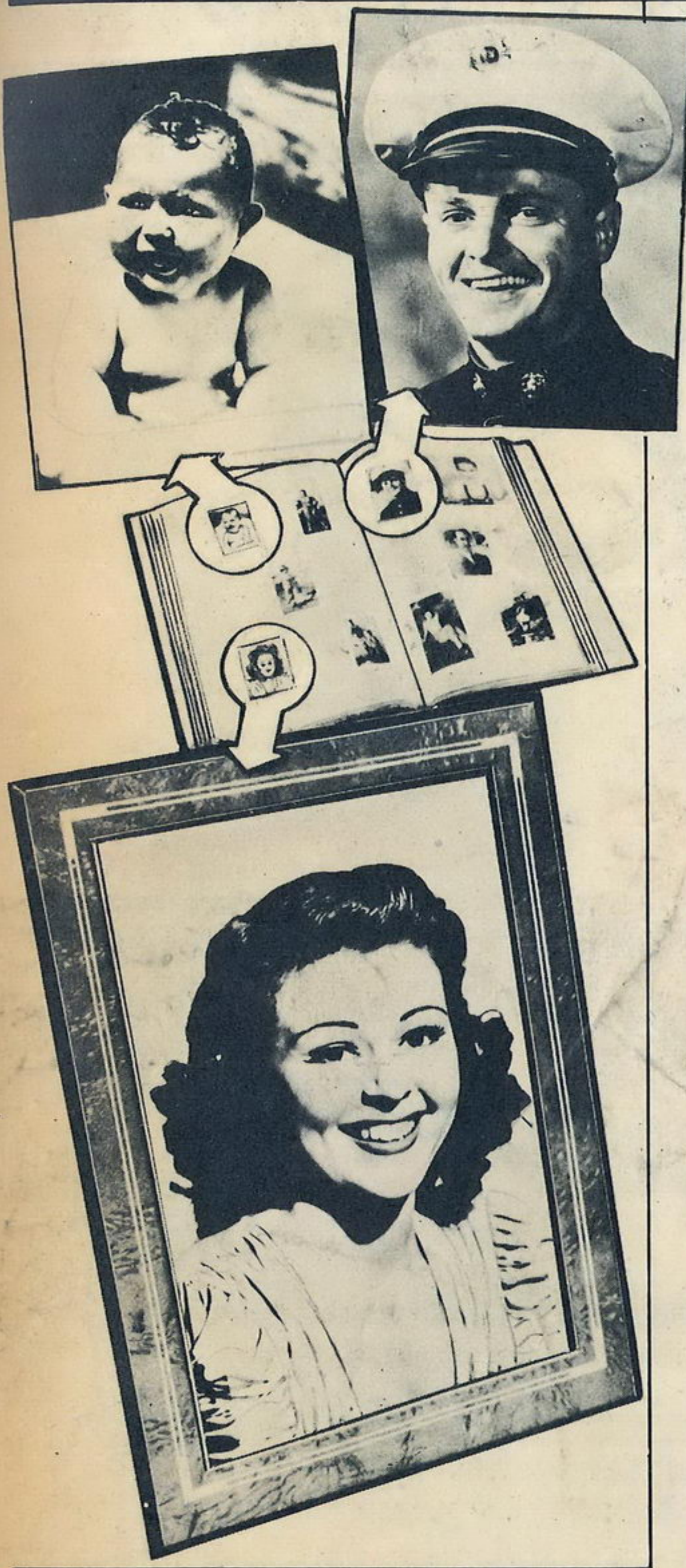
Hair.....

Eyes.....

Clothing.....

**IMPORTANT!—DO NOT ENCLOSE ANY MONEY
to Receive Your Beautiful New Silk Finish
ENLARGEMENT and Ivory Gold-Tooled Frame**

Here's What to Do:—**SEND NO MONEY!** Just send us a snapshot, photograph or negative of your favorite picture. Mail with the coupon. Accept your beautifully framed enlargement when it arrives and pay postman only 19c each plus small mailing cost for picture and frame. If not completely satisfied, return the enlargement within 10 days and your money will be refunded. *But you may keep the frame as a gift for promptness.* Limit 2 to a customer. Original snapshot or negative will be returned. **NOTE:** *Be sure to enclose color of hair, eyes and clothing* for complete information on having your enlargement beautifully hand-colored in oils. Rush coupon with photo or negative today before offer is withdrawn.



SMALL BUST WOMEN

Special Design "Up-And-Out" Bra
Gives You A Fuller, Alluring Bustline
Instantly

COLORS:

- NUDE
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SIZES:

28
to
38

NO PADS! NO ARTIFICIAL BUST BUILDUP NEEDED

Self conscious about your flat looking bustline? Figure Beauty starts with a glamorous bustline. The sensational "Up-And-Out" Bra has an exclusive secret patent pend. feature that tends to lift and cup flat, unshapely, small busts into a **FULLER, WELL-ROUNDED, EXCITING BUSTLINE** like magic instantly.

One of Our Many Satisfied Customers Below Says:

"... It's amazing how its special feature gives my bustline real glamour."

—Miss Doris Harris, Wichita, Kansas



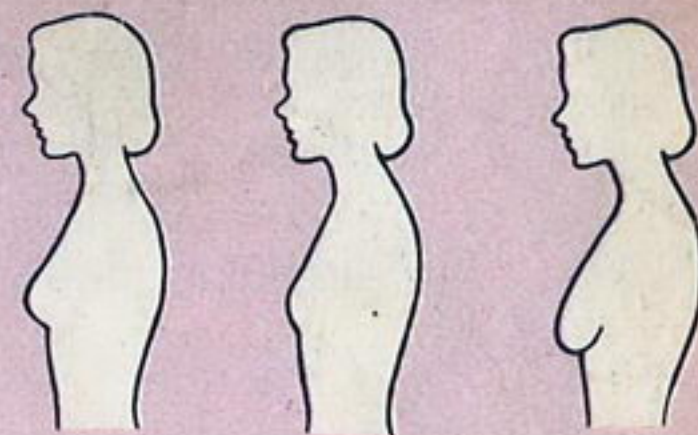
Profile View Of Hidden Feature in Bra

which does wonders for your individual bust problem.



Below are some types who can be helped.

Special patent pending bust molding feature on inside of bra lifts, supports and cups your busts. No Matter Whether They Are Small, Flat or Sagging, into Fuller, Well-Rounded "Up and Out" curves like magic instantly!



BEFORE Miss Harris wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, she was flat, unshapely, and shy.



AFTER she wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, her attractive bustline gave her poise, confidence.

Now Wear All Dresses, Blouses, Sweaters, etc. (No matter how form fitting) With Bustline Confidence!

With the "Up-And-Out" Bra underneath, all your clothes will display the sweater girl, feminine curves you desire and require to look attractive. Firm elastic back and easy to adjust shoulder straps. Beautiful fabric — easy to wash. Colors: Nude, White, Black. Sizes: 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38. Only \$2.49. Mail Coupon Now.

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Rush to me my "Up-And-Out" Bra in plain wrapper in size and color checked below. I will pay postman on delivery \$2.49 plus postage. If not delighted in 10 days, I will return merchandise for my money back.

Size _____ Color _____ How Many _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zone, State _____

Check here if you wish to save postage by enclosing \$2.49 with coupon. Same Money Back Guarantee.